MME Form 9
Rev. Nov. 65

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Geological Survey

OFFICIAL DOCKET FILE Contract No. _____ Docket No. 6609

Application
- [ ] Denied
- [ ] Withdrawn

Contract
- [ ] Terminated - Not Certified
- [ ] Terminated - Certified
- [ ] Cancelled
- [ ] Royalty Agreement

The records contained in this file are marked (x) and arranged in this order:

Folder No. 1:

Left Side

- [ ] Royalty Audits
- [ ] Certification of Discovery
- [ ] Closing Letter
- [ ] Cost Audits
- [ ] Termination Notice or Agreement
- [ ] Recision Notice
- [ ] Assignment of Contract
- [ ] Contract Amendments
- [ ] Contract with all exhibits and annexes
- [ ] Owner's Consent to Lien and Subordination Agreement
- [x] Application and Attachments

Right Side

- [ ] Project Summary (final)
- [ ] Work Completed Analysis (final)

All other material filed in chronological order including the following reports if checked:

- [ ] Field Team Semiannual Report for Certified Project
- [ ] Final Field Team Report (Tab)
- [ ] Operator's Final Report (Tab)
- [ ] Interim Field Team Reports
- [ ] Operator's monthly reports and all attachments
- [x] On-site Exam. Report (Tab) 7/11/68
- [ ] Settlement Sheets
- [ ] Drill Logs

Additional Folders:

Left Side

Folders No. _____: Reports

- [ ] Analysis of Semiannual Inspection Reports
- [ ] Project Summary (Interim) by MME Engineers

Right Side

- [ ] Field Team Semiannual Report for Certified Project
- [ ] Field Team Interim Reports
- [ ] Operator's Monthly Reports with Transmittal, Narrative and Maps

Folders No. _____: Maps (Use pocket folder or envelope)

Folders No. _____: Settlement Sheets

Folders No. _____: Drill Logs

Folders No. _____: Royalty Material

72195-65

MME FORM 6 REFERENCE SLIP

REV. 2-59 OFFICE OF MINERAL EXPLORATION

TO: Chief, OME	DATE	INITIALS
1.	3/22/67	
2.		
3.		
4. D. R. MacLaren		
5. D. R. MacLaren MLS		
FROM: Fld. Officer, Reg. I		

FOR: Check items for action desired

X Action ____ Reply for signature of ____

____ Approval ____ Investigate ____ Surname

____ Comment ____ Recommendations ____ Signature

____ Conference ____ Rewrite ____ File

____ Instructions ____ Your information

REMARKS:

Transmittal of Application for Assistance
Pratt, Vernon B. and Wm. N., Co-Partners
Argentite Mine (Silver)
Valley County, Idaho

INT.-DUP. SEC., WASH., D.C. M56300-62

GEOPHYSICAL AND
GEOCHEMICAL EXPLORATION
SPECTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS
OREGON LICENSE 2327

TELEPHONE 384-~~8487~~
3291

VERNON B. PRATT, P. E.
CONSULTING MINING ENGINEER
ROUTE TWO
FERNDALE, WASHINGTON

OFFICIAL
COPY
O. M. E.
RECEIVED
MAR 24 1967
INITIALS | CODE

March 16, 1967

Office of Minerals Exploration
Mr. Donald R. MacLaren
South 157 Howard Street
Spokane, Wash. 99204

Dear Sir;

I am herewith submitting a request for a loan to explore the Argentite prospect that my son and I have in south central Idaho.

I first learned of this property when I was employed as engineer-geologist by Callahan Zinc-Lead Co. acting on my recomendation they drove a crosscut, in the late fall of 1946, unfortunately the crosscut did not get below the zone of oxidation and as the company had closed out their Deadwood mine and moved all equipment to Colorado they did not continue the exploration.

The original locator died about 1950 and the property laid abandoned until I went back last summer. It still looked good to me so I decided to attempt the development on my own.

The small amount of sulphide ore I have been able to find shows 0.3% cadium. If this is consistent it would be important in the future operation of the mine.

I believe that there is an excellent chance to develope a mine that could produce several million ounces of silver.

Sincerely yours,
Vernon B. Pratt
Vernon B. Pratt

RECEIVED
MAR 22 1967
SPOKANE, WASH.

MME Form 40
Jan. 65

RECEIVED
MAR 22 1967

Budget Bureau No. 42-R1508
Approval expires Dec. 31, 1968

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IN MINERALS EXPLORATION

Pursuant to Public Law 85–701 (72 Stat. 700; 30 U.S.C. 641)

NAME OF APPLICANT *(Full legal name and mailing address as they should appear on contract if one is executed.)*

Vernon B. Pratt
4562 Gulf Rd.
Ferndale, Wash. 98248

Wm. N. Pratt
Box 572
Kahlotus, Wash. 99335

APPLICANT DO NOT USE THIS BLOCK

DOCKET NUMBER: 6609

DATE RECEIVED: 3/24/67

REGION: I

DIVISION CODE:

BUSINESS ORGANIZATION *(Check one)*

- INDIVIDUAL [ ]
- CORPORATION [ ]
- PARTNERSHIP [ ]
- OTHER *(Specify)* [X] Co-partners

STATE IN WHICH FIRM IS ORGANIZED:

LIST CORPORATE OFFICERS OR PARTNERS HERE, IF APPLICABLE

NAME	ADDRESS	TITLE

MINERAL(S) FOR WHICH YOU WISH TO EXPLORE: Silver

ESTIMATED COST OF PROJECT: $ 25,006.20

PROPERTY NAME	LOCATION COUNTY	STATE
ARGENTITE	Valley	Idaho

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Before filling out this application, please read the *OME Regulations for Obtaining Federal Assistance in Financing Explorations for Mineral Reserves* (30 CFR Chap. III). To assure prompt action, your application must provide all applicable material and information specified on the back of this application form. Avoid unnecessary correspondence and delays by submitting complete and accurate information. *Please submit two copies of this application and all accompanying papers* except as otherwise noted. Place your name and address on each sheet. Each item of information, maps, and reports required as a part of this application is described on the back of this form. Identify each attached statement by the item number to which it applies. If an item does not apply to your application, show the item number on your statement and after it write "not applicable." Maps or sketches should be used to supplement narrative descriptions of the property location and boundaries in item 2, existing mine workings and geology in item 3, and the proposed exploration work in item 5. When this information is not too complex, all of it may be shown on one map or sketch. All documents and other attachments submitted as a part of this application, except those in item 3(g) which you mark to be returned, become the property of the Government and will not be returned to the applicant. Send true copies, *not originals*, of leases, contracts, and other documents which are an essential part of your business records. *File this application with the Office of Minerals Exploration, Department of the Interior,* ~~Washington 25, D.C., or with the nearest OME Field Office.~~ Washington, D. C., 20242, or with the nearest OME Field Office.

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, and that he would not ordinarily undertake the proposed exploration under current conditions and circumstances at his sole expense.

March 16, 1967
DATED

Vernon B. Pratt William N Pratt
BY *(Signature)*

Owners
TITLE

A wilfully false statement or certification to any Department or Agency of the United States Government is a criminal offense. U. S. Code, Title 18, Sec. 1001.

INFORMATION REQUIRED WITH THIS APPLICATION

1. Financial Eligibility:

(a) Submit evidence of efforts made within 90 days preceding the filing of this application to obtain credit from your bank of account and at least one other banking institution or other private source of credit. Such evidence shall include true copies of correspondence which show: (1) date of loan request, (2) amount and terms requested, (3) proposed use of loan funds, and (4) the replies from credit sources. If the loan was offered under terms which you consider unreasonable, state why you consider them so.

(b) List names and addresses of affiliated, parent, or controlling companies or organizations and state extent and nature of their interest.

(c) State how you propose to furnish your share of the cost of the exploration work.

2. Applicant's Rights in Land:

(a) State your interest in the land and mineral rights, whether owner, lessee, purchaser under contract, or other. If you are not the owner, submit one true copy of the lease, contract, or other document (with address of owner) under which you control the property. Describe all liens, mortgages, or other encumbrances on the land and state book and page number and official place where recorded.

(b) State the legal description (section, township, and range; metes and bounds; patent number of claims) of the land upon which you wish to explore and all adjacent land which you own or control. Describe any part of the land or workings which should not be subject to Government royalty and liens. If the land consists of unpatented claims, state book and page number for each recorded location notice, including amended locations, and official place where recorded. State all the names by which you know the property.

(c) For all land or mineral rights encumbered or not owned, submit five copies of Lien and Subordination Agreements on MME Form 52. If the agreements cannot be obtained, state reasons and provide copies of letters of refusal.

3. Physical Description:

(a) Describe in detail and illustrate with maps or sketches all mining or exploration operations which you know have been or are being conducted upon the land. Include existing mine workings and all production facilities.

(b) State your interest, if any, in operations described in (a).

(c) State, if you know, the past and current production, supporting your statement with copies of settlement sheets, mine records, or published data if available.

(d) Describe known ore reserves, giving quantities and grades and sampling methods used. Support your statement with copies of assay certificates and assay maps if available.

(e) Describe by narrative and maps or sketches the geologic features of the property, including ore minerals, geologic formations if known, and type of deposit (vein, bedded, etc.).

(f) State your reasons for expecting to find ore, and if you have sampled the area you propose to explore, show where the samples were taken, describe sampling methods used, and provide copies of assay certificates.

(g) Send with your application at least *two* copies of all geologic or engineering reports, assay maps, or technologic information which you have, indicating whether you require their return.

4. Accessibility of Property:

(a) To aid the OME representative who may examine the property, state name and address of person who will meet him; give directions for reaching the property; and describe accessibility of property and of any mine workings.

(b) Name the shipping and supply points and state the distances to the property.

5. Exploration Work:

(a) Describe fully the proposed exploration work giving individual footages and sizes of openings *for each item of work.* Use narrative, maps, plans, and sections as necessary. Show location of the proposed work as related to geologic features such as veins, ore-bearing beds, contacts of rock formations, etc. Show also the relation of the proposed work to any existing mine workings and to *land boundaries* or to the closest identifiable corner.

(b) If an access road must be built, show the proposed location on the property map and state the length, type and construction methods proposed.

(c) If an OME contract is executed, state how soon thereafter work would be started and finished. State your anticipated average daily or monthly rate of progress for each type of work.

6. Experience:

State your operating experience and background to conduct this exploration work and also that of the person who will supervise the work.

7. Estimate of Costs:

Furnish detailed estimates of the necessary costs *for each item of the work proposed in 5(a)* under the headings listed below with a total for each heading and the estimated total cost of the work. Costs for any work to be performed by an independent contractor should be listed separately under category (a) below. Costs for any work that is not to be performed by an independent contractor should be listed under categories (b) through (g).

(a) Independent contracts. State the total cost of any proposed independent contract for all or any part of the work, and the number of units and the unit cost for each type of work, such as per foot of drilling, per foot of drifting, per hour of bulldozer operations, or per cubic yard of material moved. Cost estimates should be supported by bids from three contractors if possible. (*Note*—If none of the work is to be contracted, write "none" after this item.)

(b) Personal services. The cost of supervision, engineering and geological services, outside consultants, and labor should be itemized by numbers and classes of employees; rates of wages, salaries or fees; and periods of employment. State whether these services are available.

(c) Operating materials and supplies. List items of material and supplies giving quantity and cost of each. Include under this heading power, water, and fuel, and units of equipment and tools costing less than $50 each.

(d) Operating equipment. List items of equipment and tools costing $50 or more per unit. Give specifications and indicate how each item is to be acquired—i.e., rented, purchased or provided by the applicant. If rented or purchased, state the estimated rental or purchase price. If furnished by the applicant, state condition and present fair market value.

(e) Initial rehabilitation and repairs. Describe the type and the cost of *initial* rehabilitation or repair of existing buildings, fixtures, installations (exclusive of mine workings), and movable operating equipment now owned by the applicant which will be used in the exploration work.

(f) New buildings, fixtures, installations. Describe each building, fixed improvement, and installation to be purchased, constructed, or installed for the exploration work, stating specifications and cost including labor, materials, and supervision.

(g) Miscellaneous. Describe the type and estimate the cost of repairs and maintenance of the operating equipment listed in 7(d). Do not repeat initial repairs listed in 7(e). Show also the costs of analytical work, accounting, workmen's compensation and employees' liability insurance, payroll taxes, and other required costs that do not fall within the previous categories. [*Note*—The Government will not contribute to costs incurred before the date of the contract, or to costs of or incident to: (1) acquiring, using, or possessing land and any existing improvements, facilities, buildings, installations, and appurtenances, or the depreciation and depletion thereof; (2) general overhead, corporate management, interest and taxes (other than payroll and sales taxes); (3) insurance (other than employees' liability insurance); and (4) damages to persons or property (other than authorized repair to or replacement of equipment or other property used in the work).]

INT.-DUP. SEC., WASH., D.C

ARGENTITE prospect

Vernon B. Pratt
4562 Gulf Rd.
Ferndale, Wash. 98248

1. Financial Eligibility:

(a) Photostats of letters sent to and received from, First National Bank of Ferndale, Ferndale, Wash., and North Western Commercial Bank, Bellingham, Wash.
I have done business with the First National of Ferndale for the last forty years and have had an account at the North Western Commercial for three years.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) We will have available $2,000.00 in cash and will contract to drive the 500 feet of drift for $5000.00, labor only.

2. Applicants Rights in Land:

(a) Our rights to the property are by quartz location dated August 16, 1966 and recorded in book 14, page 265 on Oct. 12, 1966

(b) The ARGENTITE claim is located in the Deadwood Mining District of Valley county, Idaho. An exact survey of the location has not been made but as near as I can determine it is in the SE ¼ of section 8, township 12N, range 7E
This property was formerly known as "Lone Mountain"

(c) Not applicable.

3. Physical Description:

(a) The sketch map in the plane of the vein, shows two shallow open cuts that were made by the original locator. At a point about 100 feet south of the south end line there is a X-cut about 125 feet long that was driven by Callahan Zinc-Lead Co. in 1946

(b) I was engineer-geologist for Callahan Zinc-Lead in 1946 and recomended driving the X-cut.

(c) I do not know of any past production.

(d) There are no ore reserves.

ARGENTITE prospect

Vernon B. Pratt
4562 Gulf Rd.
Ferndale, Wash. 98248

3. Physical Description (cont.)

(e) The Argentite vein is from 10 to 20 feet in width the dip is nearly vertical and the strike is N 30 E. Both wall rocks are granodiorite of the central Idaho batholith. The original locator told me that he had traced the vein for over 3,000 feet, I have seen croppings at least 2,000 feet apart but the principal mineralization appears to be in the vecinity of the south end of the Argentite claim.

Mineralization consists of minor amounts of quartz and bleaching of the mafic minerals but not much kaolin was developed. Sulphide minerals are sphalerite and galena, the ore also contains some copper but the exact primary mineral has not been determined. The silver is evidently dissolved in the other sulphides. The sulphide minerals fill seams caused by the premineral shearing and solution cavities of about ½ inch to 1 inch in diameter.

Surface oxidation leaves a rock full of clean vugs which grade down ward into vugs filled with iron oxide and a small percentage of lead. In areas favorable for the precipitation of the copper minerals there is also considerable argentite. Within the zone of oxidation there are "islands" of unoxidized primary sulphides, but exploration work to date has not found any large body of sulphide ore.

This vein is almost identical with the vein at the Deadwood mine which is 6 miles north east, almost exactly in line with the strike of this vein. At Deadwood the early timers worked rich silver ores near the surface and from the extent of the workings must have shipped several thousand tons of ore about 1900. During the period 1917-18 Bunker Hill built a 150 ton mill and did considerable mining. From 1940 to 1946 Callahan Zinc-Lead operated the property. I do not have a record of Callahan's production but do know that they shipped many tons of concentrate. The silver to base metal ratio at Deadwood was approximately one ounce of silver to each percent of base metal. If the same ratio exists at the Argentite I anticipate a silver content of about 10 oz. per ton in the primary ore

Secondary argentite is closely related to secondary chalcocite and azurite, specimens running from 30 to 100 oz silver per ton. I expect that at or near ground water level there will be a considerable body of good silver ore.

ARGENTITE prospect

Vernon B. Pratt
4562 Gulf Rd.
Ferndale, Wash. 98248

3. (f)
The following specimen samples were taken from the dumps at the open cuts #1 and #2
#1, this sample, I believe, to represent much of the ore before oxidation took place.
#2, this was leached outcrop
#3, this sample showed dark staining, probably argentite. This was not a unique specimen but similar material could be found scattered through the dumps.

OUR MOTTO: — WHAT THERE IS IN IT, NO MORE NO LESS.

EDMUND E. PHILLIPS, VICE-PRES.—GEN. MGR. M. E. PHILLIPS, SECRETARY

THE COLORADO ASSAYING COMPANY

(INCORPORATED)

ASSAYERS AND CHEMISTS

2244 BROADWAY

DENVER, COLORADO 80201 Sept. 3, 1966.

REPORT ON DETERMINATIONS MADE FOR — Mr. Vernon Pratt,
Ferndale, Washington.

SAMPLE MARKS	METALS	Amount per Ton Ozs.	Amount per Ton Hds.	PER CENT	Value per Ton Dollars	Value per Ton Cents
#1	Gold		.01			.35
	Silver		5.10		6.	63
	Lead			0.1%		.25
	Zinc			12.2%	18.	30
					25.	53
#2	Silver		trace			
#3	Silver		29.90		38.	87

GOLD AT $35.00 PER OUNCE
SILVER AT $1.30 PER OUNCE
LEAD AT $2.50 PER UNIT
COPPER AT _____ PER UNIT
Zinc at $1.50 per unit

THE COLORADO ASSAYING COMPANY

By Ed Phillips

ARGENTITE prospect

Vernon B. Pratt
4562 Gulf Rd.
Ferndale, Wash.

3. Physical Description: (cont)

(f) Based upon many years of experience and study it is my firm belief that the leached out crop that is evident at the south end of the Argentite is a positive indication of a commercial deposit of silver and base metals in the unoxidized portion of the vein.

I am convinced that the vugs and seams in this leached zone are derived entirely from the oxidation of sphalerite and galena, in a careful study of the ore I have never seen a grain of pyrite, the iron oxides in the oxide zone are evidently derived from the oxidation of sphalerite.

Because of the similarity of this deposit to that at Deadwoood, 6 miles distant, I believe it is reasonable to expect an worthwhile zone of secondary silver enrichment. This is supported by the fact that I have taken several specimens that assay from 30 to 100 oz. per ton.

The samples reported in the enclosed assay certificate are specimens from the open cuts at the south end of Argentite. Because of the very extensive leaching at the shallow depths, channel samples would not be significant.

(g) There are no engineering reports or assay maps available.

ARGENTITE prospect

Vernon B. Pratt
4562 Gulf Rd.
Ferndale, Wash. 98248

4. Accessibility of property:

(a) The Argentite claim is located at an elevation of 6,500 in a heavy snow belt, snow reaches a depth of 12 to 15 feet in the winter but is mostly gone by the first of May. The roads into the area are open about the first of June from the east and about July 15 from the west. A round trip from Boise by heliocopter is $216 If the OME representative will contact me about May first we will make arraingements to visit the property.

(b) From July 15th to the first of November the supply and shipping point will be Cascade, Idaho. The distance from the mine is approximately 65 miles, 25 miles of oiled road and 40 miles of graveled forest road. From June first to July 15th the shipping and supply point will be Boise, Idaho, 35 miles of gravel road and about 100 miles of state highway 21.

5. Exploration Work:

(a) I propose to drive 500 feet of drift, 6 X 8 cross section. This drift will start on the vein at a point about 1,000 feet north of the south end line and follow the vein south. This drift should be of sufficient length to determine the extent and grade of the zone of secondary silver enrichment, I also expect that it will penetrate the primary sulphide zone far enough to determine the silver value of this ore.

(b) The road built by Callahan Zinc#Lead crossed the river on a bridge that they built. This bridge has been washed out. To build a bridge that would with stand the spring floods and cary the necessary loads, would be a major undertaking. The Forest Service has indicated that they would issue a special use permit to build a "jeep" type road as shown on the enlarged topog map. This road will be about 1.7 miles long, an additional 1000 feet will be needed from the end of the second switch back, to cut the vein at the point where the drift is to be started. The road can be built entirely by bulldozer

ARGENTITE prospect

Vernob B. Pratt
4562 Gulf Rd.
Ferndale, Wash. 98248

5. Exploration Work: (cont.)

(c) If the OME contract is executed by June 1st the work on the road can be begun by June 15th and completed by July 1st. Work on the drift can be begun by July 15th. with a new drill and a mucking machine the drift can be advanced 35 feet a week and by the end of August a total of 200 feet completed.

It will be necessary to terminate the work for 1967 as I will be under contract to return to my teaching duties on September 1st. Work will be resumed on or about June 15th 1968 and the drift completed by August 30, 1968.

6. Experience:

My experience and training in mining is described in the accompaning resume.

My son who will be associated with me has had heavy equipment operation and maintenance training in the U. S. Army. He has also completed two years of college in engineering subjects and for the last two years has been employed as a detail draftsman and inspector at the Lower Monumental dam construction.

7. Estimate of Costs;

(a) Bulldozing work will consist of building 1.9 miles of "pioneer" road as shown on the enlarged topographical map, 1"=1,000', and the preparation of the portal site. It has not been possible to obtain a bid on this work, but I have had considerable experience in supervising this type of work and estimate 64 hours for road construction and 16 hours for the portal preperation.

The current rate for D8 hydraulic dozers is $25.00 per hour. 80 hours at $25.00, total $2,000.00

(b) Personal services.

The necessary engineering and geological services will be done by myself without charge to the project.

We will contract the labor of driving the drift @ $10.00 / foot, 500 feet total 5,000.00

(c) Operating materials and supplies.

5,000 lbs explosives @ 27.00 per 100	1,350.00
6,000 ft. fuse @ 1.75 per 100	105.00
1,000 caps @ 31.20 per 1,000	31.20
2,500 gallons diesel fuel @ 20¢ per gallon	500.00
50 1 3/4" carbide bits @ 12.15 each	607.50
4 shovels @ 5.25	21.00

ARGENTITE prospect

Vernon B. Pratt
4562 Gulf Rd.
Ferndale, Wash. 98248

7. Estimate of costs: (cont.)

(c) Operating materials and supplies. (cont.)

4 picks @ 6.75	27.00
5 pieces of drill steel @ 14.30	71.50
total	$2,713.20

(d) Operating equipment:

Used, compressor, 240 cfm, diesel drive	$5,400.00
New, jackleg drill, IR JR300A with parts to convert to jackhammer	1,564.00
New, air and water hoses, 50'	82.00
New, 15 gallon water tank	89.00
New, air driven bit grinder	623.00
New, 500 feet of 1½ inch pipe @ 35¢ per foot	175.00
Used, 6 tons of 16# rails @ $350 per ton	2,100.00
New, track spikes, 1 keg	55.00
New, track bolts, 50 lb.	60.00
New, fish plates, 100	100.00
Used, 16 cubic foot car	175.00
Used, mucking machine	2,500.00
The following item to be rented from Wm. N. Pratt	
1962, 3/4 ton, four wheel drive, IH pickup truck 20 weeks at $25.00 per week	500.00
total	$13,423.00

(e) Initial rehabilitation and repairs.
None

(f) New buildings, fixtures, installations.
Compressor building, 10 feet by 20 feet. framed from local lodge pole pine and covered by corrugated iron.

corrugated iron 800 square feet @ 0.12	$96.00
labor, 6 days @ 20.00	120.00
nails, 20# @ 0.20	4.00
total	$220.00

(g) Miscellaneous.

accounting and legal services	$200.00
industrial insurance	250.00
allowance for freight	1,000.00
assaying, 100 silver assays @ 2.00	200.00
total	1,650.00

total of all costs	$25,006.20

GEOPHYSICAL AND
GEOCHEMICAL EXPLORATION
SPECTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS
OREGON LICENSE 2327

TELEPHONE

VERNON B. PRATT, P. E.
CONSULTING MINING ENGINEER
ROUTE TWO
FERNDALE, WASHINGTON

March 6, 1967

Mr. M. F. Hastings, President
First National Bank
Ferndale, Wash.

Dear Sir;

My son and I own a mining property in the Deadwood mining district of central Idaho. During the next two summers we want to drive 500 feet of drift to determine if there is a valuable deposit of silver ore.

In addition to our labor and $2,000 of personal funds we will need additional financing of $18,000 for mining equipment and supplies.

We would like to know if we could borrow this amount from the First National Bank and if so under what terms.

Sincerely yours,
Vernon B. Pratt
Vernon B. Pratt

FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF FERNDALE

FERNDALE, WASHINGTON

March 7, 1967

Mr. Vernon B. Pratt
4562 Gulf Road
Ferndale, Washington 98248

Dear Mr. Pratt:

Our loan committee has considered your request for an advance of $18,000.00 for the purpose of developing mining property in Idaho. We are sorry that we will be unable to accommodate you in this endeavor. Our directors feel that we have as a first responsibility the development of the Ferndale area. With the beginning of industrialization demands for funds have been extremely strong. Because of the hazardous nature of your enterprise in case it should not prove successful, it might be difficult for you to service the advance, and because of its location even were you able to offer satisfactory collateral we could not go into this venture at this distance from our office.

NG

We are grateful to you for giving us an opportunity of looking at the request, and hope that you may be successful in obtaining funds in the area where the property is located. If we can be of any assistance to you in the future we hope that you will again give us an opportunity of considering it.

Very truly yours,

M. F. Hastings,
President

GEOPHYSICAL AND
GEOCHEMICAL EXPLORATION
SPECTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS
OREGON LICENSE 2327

TELEPHONE 384-8487

VERNON B. PRATT, P. E.
CONSULTING MINING ENGINEER
ROUTE TWO
FERNDALE, WASHINGTON

March 6, 1967

Mr. Larry Bauthues

Northwestern Commercial Bank

Bellingham, Wash.

Dear Sir;

My son and I own a mining property in the Deadwood mining district of central Idaho. During the next two summers we want to drive 500 feet of drift to determine if it contains a valuable deposit of silver ore.

In addition to our labor and $2,000 of personal funds we will need additional financing of $18,000 for mining equipment and supplies.

We would like to know if we could borrow this amount from the Northwestern Commercial Bank and if so under what terms.

Sincerely yours,

Vernon B. Pratt

Vernon B. Pratt

11

NORTHWESTERN COMMERCIAL BANK
Bellingham, Washington

B. L. Bauthues, Jr.
Exec. Cashier & Mgr.

March 9, 1967

Vernon B. Pratt
4562 Gulf Road
Ferndale, Wash. 98248

Dear Mr. Pratt:

This is to inform you of our decision on your request for a loan of $18,000.00.

We regret that we are unable to help you due to the speculative nature of exploring for a silver ore deposit. Also, the location of your property is outside our lending area as approved by bank regulations. NC

Sincerely,

B. L. Bauthues, Jr.
Executive Cashier

BLB:km

ARGENTITE prospect

VERNON B. PRATT
Ferndale, Washington

Graduate: College of Mines, University of Washington
B. S. in Mining Engineering--1939
Engineering license State of Oregon 2327, 1944
Weight 155, height 5'8", age 56, health excellent.
Married, one child 26 years old.

Summary of Experience:

SUPERVISORY: Directed crew of fifteen pipe field engineers for two years. Directed seventeen carpenters and laborers for three months. In charge of mine operation with six men on exploration, extraction and milling. In charge of mine operation employing about 40 men for two weeks during absence of mine superintendent. Employed from one to five men while leasing for a total period of about one and a half years. Directed several survey crews. Level boss in charge of sixty men for three years. Superintendent in charge of twenty men in Honduras. Pipe foreman in refinery construction.

ENGINEERING: Employed at various times as engineer aide, junior engineer, transitman, assayer, engineer-geologist. Experienced in mine and surface surveying, geology, mapping, triangulation, mine examination, sampling, fire and wet assaying, designing and estimating buildings and ore bins, project engineer on refinery construction, and safety and ventilation engineer.

MINING: Have been employed as mucker, timber helper, flotation mill helper, miner, timberman, bulldozer and leaser. I have worked in mines employing the following methods: stulled stopes, square set, horizontal cut and fill, shrinkage, resueing, glory hole and block caving. Have operated a diamond drill underground.

ARGENTITE prospect

Vernon B. Pratt
4562 gulf Rd.
Ferndale, Wash. 98248

November 1958 to present date:

Instructor at Bellingham Technical School where I teach a course for Engineering Aides. The subjects I teach are trigonometry, surveying, strength of material, and engineering drawing.

April 1958 to October 1958:

Instrument fitter, installing and calibrating process instruments at the Texaco Refinery, Anacortes, Washington. This refinery was constructed by the Bechtel Company.

November 1957 to April 1958:

Employed by the Fluor Company on expansion of the Shell Oil Company refinery at Anacortes, Washington. I worked on fabrication control and pipe material control. Checked out piping installation for correctness of installation. Job completed.

April 1957 to November 1957:

Foreman in charge of blueprints, pipe materials, and material distribution. Employed by the Bechtel Company on expansion of General Petroleum refinery at Ferndale, Washington. Job completed.

April 1956 to April 1957:

Employed by Petrocon Engineering at the General Petroleum refinery. Pipe detailing, fab shop foreman, project engineer. Job completed.

January 1956 to April 1956:

President and General Manager, Island Mines Inc. Developing and mining chrome ore. Deposit worked out.

March 1955 to January 1956:

Employed by Earhart & Associates at the Ferndale refinery. Pipe detailer and pipe foreman. Job completed.

November 1953 to March 1955:

Employed by the Bechtel Company at Ferndale and Anacortes. Pipe detailing, fabrication control line checking and trouble shooting. Quit to work for Earhart and Associates.

April 1952 to November 1953:

Safety and ventilation engineer for Day Mines Inc., Wallace, Idaho. I was in charge of all safety promotion, first aid training, dust control, and made ventilation studies. Mine operation curtailed due to declining metal prices.

ARGENTITE prospect

Vernon B. Pratt
4562 gulf Rd.
Ferndale, Wash. 98248

February 1952 to April 1952:

Superintendent of Grove Mercury Mine, Tegucigalpa, Honduras, Central America. I was the only American at the mine located 40 miles from Tegucigalpa. The mine was closed because of lack of ore.

November 1949 to February 1952:

Level boss at the Ray, Arizona mine of Kennecott Copper Mining Company. I had about 60 miners under my direction on repair, development, and extraction. This was a large block cave mine that had been converted to open pit. I left to accept employment in Honduras.

May 1949 to October 1949:

Engineer for Climax Molybdenum Company, Climax, Colorado. Surface surveying, surveying for alignment and timber in tunnel of large cross section. Miscellaneous office work.

January 1949 to May 1949:

Leasing California mine, Lake City, Colorado. This was a narrow high-grade vein, profitable only when lead and zinc were bringing high prices. I employed two men, built an ore bin and did considerable stoping.

January 1945 to January 1949:

Engineer-Geologist. Callahan Zinc-Lead Company, Deadwood, Idaho and Sargents, Colorado. I joined the staff of Callahan Zinc-Lead Company at Deadwood and remained there until the mine closed when I was transferred to Sargents, Colorado.

Mine and surface surveying, geology, mapping and interpretation. Set up and directed a mine contract system. Designed and directed a crew of 17 men in the erection of numerous mine buildings, houses and two ore bins. I was in charge of the Deadwood mine during the last four months that it operated with a small crew on development and extraction.

ARGENTITE prospect

Vernon B. Pratt
4562 Gulf Rd
Ferndale, Wash. 98248

October 1944 to January 1945:

Transitman, Bonneville Power Administration, Portland, Oregon.
Surveying for power lines right-of-way.

March 1942 to October 1944:

Engineering aide--Supervisor of Engineers, Kaiser Ship, Vancouver, Washington.
I started as an engineer aide in the marine pipe department and in a short time was advanced to the supervision of fifteen field engineers on three shifts. Duties involved the installation, fabrication and function of marine piping. I also organized for, and taught classes in blueprint reading.

March 1941 to March 1942:

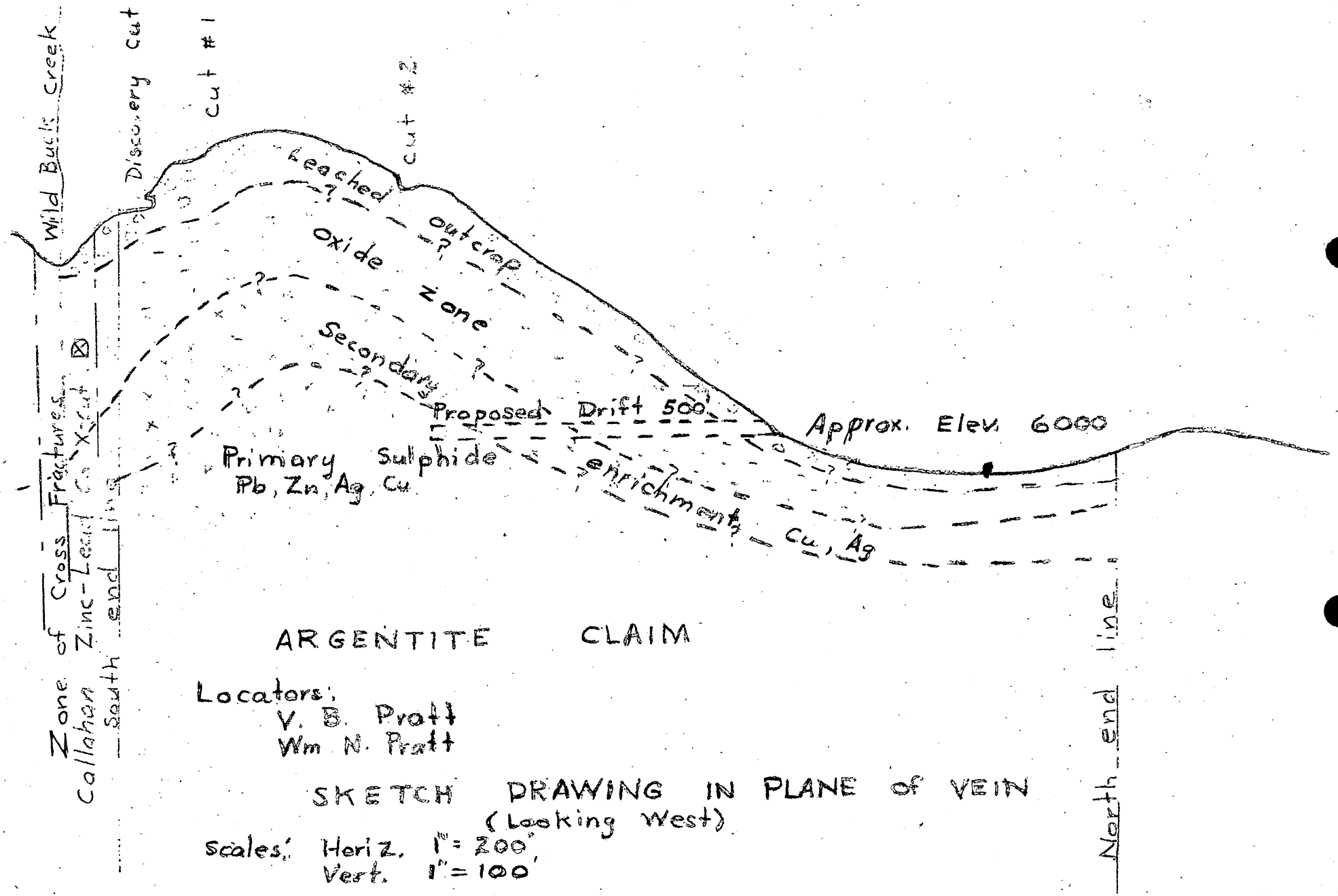
Measureman-Sampler, Anaconda Copper Company, Butte, Montana.
Taking mine samples, calculating mine contracts.

June 1939 to March 1941:

Junior engineer. Cornucopia Gold Mines Company, Cornucopia, Oregon.
Mine and surface surveying, geology mapping, design of building and mine structures.

Previous to graduation from college I was employed in the following mines:

Morning Mine, Mullan, Idaho--Mucker and timber helper.
Cornucopia Gold Mines, -- Mill helper, mucker, leaser.
Alaska Juneau Mine--Bulldozer.
Two small mines in vicinity of Fairbanks, Alaska-Miner.
Anaconda Copper Mining Co., Butte, Montana--Miner.



ARGENTITE CLAIM

Locators:
V. B. Pratt
Wm N. Pratt

SKETCH DRAWING IN PLANE of VEIN
(Looking West)

Scales: Horiz. 1" = 200'
Vert. 1" = 100'

MME Form 7
(2/63)

OFFICIAL FILE COPY

Date	Surname	Code
11/4/68	Peterson	120
11/4/68	Kirkemo	120
		110
		220

AIRMAIL

NOV 4 1968

Mr. Vernon B. Pratt
208 Crown Lane
Bellingham, Washington 98225

Re: OME-6609 (Silver)
Vernon B. and William N. Pratt
Argentite Claim
Valley County, Idaho

Dear Mr. Pratt:

This will acknowledge your letter of October 26 to Mr. D. R. MacLaren informing us of your decision not to continue the exploration of the Argentite claim.

We are, therefore, considering your application as having been withdrawn and are placing it in our inactive files.

Sincerely yours,

FRANK E. JOHNSON (gla)

Frank E. Johnson
Chief, Office of
Minerals Exploration

cc: Director's Reading File
Economic Geology File
~~ME~~ Docket
OME Reading File
Region I
Mr. Peterson

ECPeterson/bsl 11/4/68

MME FORM 6 REFERENCE SLIP

REV. OFFICE OF MINERALS EXPLORATION

TO: Chief, OME	DATE	INITIALS
1.	10/30/68	
Re: OME-6609 (Silver)		
2. Vernon B. and William N. Pratt		
Argentite and Twilia Claims		
3. Valley County, Idaho		
4.		
5. D. R. MacLaren		
FROM: Field Officer, Reg. I		

FOR: Check items for action desired

X Action ____ Reply for signature of ____

____ Approval ____ Investigate ____ Surname

____ Comment ____ Recommendations ____ Signature

____ Conference ____ Rewrite ____ File

____ Instructions X Your information

RECEIVED NOV 1 1968

INITIALS	CODE
	~~130~~
bjl	120 M
	~~120~~
EM	120 P

REMARKS:

INT.-DUP. SEC., WASH., D.C. M56300-62

GEOPHYSICAL AND
GEOCHEMICAL EXPLORATION
SPECTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS
OREGON LICENSE 2327

TELEPHONE 206-734-8128

VERNON B. PRATT, P. E.
CONSULTING MINING ENGINEER
208 Crown Lane
Bellingham, Wash. 98225

Oct. 26, 1968

Office of Mineral Exploration
Geological Survey
Spokane, Wash.

Re: OME-6609
Argentite Mine
Valley County, Idaho

Mr. D. R. MacLaren;

Dear Sir;

After considerable study, my son and I have decided not to develope the Argentite any further. The principal reason for this decision has been that we are unable to to find a suitable market for the highgrade oxide ore near the surface.

There is not enough of this type of ore to justify a milling plant and both the International Smelting and Bumker Hill smelters inform me that they have so much silicious ore that they would not accept even one truck load.

Most sincerely yours,
Vernon B. Pratt
Vernon B. Pratt

RECEIVED
OCT 30 1968
O.M.E.
SPOKANE, WASH.

XERO COPY XERO COPY XERO COPY

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
U. S. Court House, Rm. 656
W. 920 Riverside Avenue
Spokane, Washington 99201
October 17, 1968

OCT 21 1968

AIR MAIL

Mr. Vernon B. Pratt, P.E.
208 Crown Lane
Bellingham, Washington 98225

Re: OME-6609 (Silver)
Argentite and Twilia Claims
Valley County, Idaho

Dear Mr. Pratt:

The latter part of July you telephoned this office to advise us that you had found a vein outcrop on the Argentite claim which you believed to be a more promising exploration target than the float found near the southeast corner of the claim. You asked that we hold up further processing of your OME application pending additional prospecting of the new showing, as an amended program might be in order.

You were asked to submit a new map and section indicating thereon the location of the outcrop, the width of the vein, assays of samples taken from there, and the location and extent, if it could be determined, of a caved adit on the vein. You were also asked to submit a new exploration proposal if you so desired, along with a new estimate of costs for that proposal. To date, we have heard nothing further.

We desire to give each applicant sufficient time to present additional data and any change in his proposed project, but we cannot hold an application open indefinitely.

Please advise us whether you are still interested in this project and, if so, when we may expect to receive the requested data.

Sincerely,

D. R. MacLaren
Field Officer, OME
Region I

DRMacLaren/mls
cc: OME
Director's Reading File

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF MINERALS EXPLORATION
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
U. S. Court House, Rm. 656
W. 920 Riverside Avenue
Spokane, Washington 99201

JUL 11 1968

Memorandum

To: Chief, Office of Minerals Exploration

From: Frank C. Armstrong, Geologist

Subject: On-site Examination Report
OME-6609 (Silver)
Vernon B. Pratt and William N. Pratt
Argentite and Twilia Claims
Valley County, Idaho

OFFICIAL COPY
O. M. E.
RECEIVED
JUL 15 1968
INITIALS | CODE
gla | 130
bal | 120
120

On-site Exam.

INTRODUCTION

The afternoon of August 15, 1967, from about 1:00 to 6:30 p. m. was spent with Vernon B. Pratt and William N. Pratt in examining the Argentite and Twilia claims and in discussing their application for OME assistance.

Submission of this report has been delayed pending receipt of additional information from the applicants, which has now been received.

The Argentite and Twilia claims are located in the SE$\frac{1}{4}$ sec. 8, T. 12 N., R. 7 E., B.M., Valley County, Idaho, at an altitude ranging from about 5,700 feet to about 6,300 feet. They are located on a southeastward-facing, brush-covered hillside that has an average slope of about 32°.

The property is a short distance west and near the middle of the west boundary of the Deadwood Mining District as drawn on Idaho Bureau of Mines and Geology map "Mining Districts of Idaho" by Clyde B. Ross. To my knowledge no lode deposits have been mined in this area. The closest lode mine and the only one in the Deadwood Mining District from which there has been appreciable production is the Deadwood mine (also known as Pilgram group or mine) about 7 miles to the northeast. As the applicant states that the vein material and geologic setting(?) of his property is "almost identical" to that of the Deadwood mine, the fragmentary records of production from the Deadwood and its geologic setting may be helpful in evaluating the applicants' prospect.

Deadwood Mine

The following production figures were supplied by the Albany, Oregon office of the U. S. Bureau of Mines:

	Short tons ore	Gold oz	Silver oz	Copper pounds	Lead pounds	Zinc pounds
1929-'31	38,443	1,345	288,729	167,280	2,265,279	4,389,838
1932-'37			No production			
1938	363	39	12,382	3,712	50,913	None recorded
1939-'41			No production			
1942-47	86,479	1,293	339,158	275,307	2,683,486	5,785,725
1948-49			No Production			
1950	8	3	647	516	5,814	1,270
1950-1967			No Production			
Totals	125,293	2,680	640,916	446,815	5,005,492	10,176,835

The average grade per ton as computed from the above production figures was: 0.0214 oz Au; 5.115 oz Ag; 0.178 percent Cu; 1.998 percent Pb; and 4.061 percent Zn.

In addition to the above documented production, V. B. Pratt stated that about 1900 rich silver ore was mined and estimated that several thousand tons of such ore was shipped. (See application, item 3). He also stated that during 1917-18 Bunker Hill & Sullivan Mining and Concentrating Company did considerable mining. In a private report dated December 4, 1940, Leverett Davis, at one time manager of the mine, stated that Bunker Hill mined 38,267 tons of silver-lead-zinc ore which averaged 3.09 percent lead, 7.57 percent zinc, and 7.952 ounces silver per ton.

In December 1944 Roy P. Full mapped the accessible underground workings of the Deadwood mine for the U. S. Geological Survey and obtained other information concerning the mine. The ore occurs in quartz-siderite veins in a badly broken wide shear zone that cuts monzonite or diorite. Ore minerals are sphalerite, galena, and chalcopyrite; the silver-bearing mineral was not identified. Some of the ore-bearing veins do not contain siderite. Veins dip 80° to 90°. Ore shoots occur within the veins as lenses 100 to 200 feet long and 50 to 150 feet high. Stopes were as much as 5 sets wide (25 feet?), but most were 1 to 3 sets wide. No consistent pattern of silver distribution was recognized. In some stopes lead and silver content

was high whereas in other stopes lead content was low and silver and zinc content was high. There is a suggestion that some of the first veins mined were primarily high-grade silver veins. Numerous post-ore basic dikes occur within the shear zone and some cut it at a small angle. Although it has been reported that cross faults displace the ore, Full did not find evidence of extensive cross faulting in the workings he mapped.

GEOLOGY

On the geologic map of Idaho the Argentite-Twilia property lies well within the area mapped as Idaho batholith of Jurassic(?)-Cretaceous age. The property is underlain by porphyritic quartz-monzonite (hand specimen identification).

Despite the steepness of the hillside, exposures are not good and vein exposures are far from continuous, as might be supposed from parts of the applicants' map (fig. 1). Except where trenched or blasted, the vein does not crop out well; even the trenched road outcrop shown near the switchback in the south-central part of the Argentite claim is not well exposed. Best exposures are between the Twilia discovery pit and the 35-foot long adit which is about 260 feet N. 55° E. (fig. 2).

The best vein exposures are in the Twilia and Argentite discovery pits, with the former the better (fig. 3). Here the vein is vuggy and leached, and consists of a somewhat open network of limonite-stained quartz and feldspar. Where leaching has been less severe, open parts of the network are filled with a punky limonitic material that does not effervesce in dilute hydrochloric acid. Small quartz crystals line some of the vugs. No sulfides were recognized.

The full thickness of the vein is not exposed in either pit. At the Twilia pit the northwest wall of the vein appears to be a vertical fault (fig. 3); a definite southeast wall was not recognized, but the vein may be about 10 feet thick. The vein is unusual in that except for its vugginess and iron staining it does not appear mineralogically much different from the wall rock.

Exposed in the adit about 250 feet to the northeast is an iron-stained shear zone about 30 feet thick.(fig. 3). The shear zone cuts quartz monzonite. No ore minerals were recognized in the adit, but some fine-grained gray minerals in pieces on the dump might be (silver?) sulfides. A diabase(?) dike along the southeast side of the shear zone strikes N. 55° E. and dips vertically; it appears to parallel the shear zone.

On the dump of the caved adit about 50 feet south of the Twilia pit (fig. 3), vein material containing galena and sphalerite was found.

Also present were dull dark dusty sulfides(?) and yellowish coatings that may be silver minerals. This vein material is less vuggy and most of the open parts of the network are filled with soft crumbly limonitic material that effervesces in dilute hydrohloric acid.

Four thin sections of vein material were examined under the microscope. One of the thin sections, cut from a specimen containing soft crumbly limonitic material that effervesces in acid, contains a carbonate mineral in moderate abundance. From its color in thin section and its weathering characteristics it seems fairly certain that the mineral is siderite. It also seems fairly certain from the foregoing evidence that the open network in the more thoroughly leached parts of the vein was formerly occupied by siderite and that the punky limonitic material is the residue from leached siderite. From this it follows that the open network in leached outcrops cannot have been formerly occupied only by sulfide minerals. Indeed, the distribution of limonitic material in less thoroughly leached material suggests that almost all of the network was occupied by siderite.

In all the sections there is ample evidence that the vein occupies a shear zone. Crushed zones of optically aligned quartz and bent and broken feldspar crystals are abundant. Both K-spar and plagioclase are sericitized, and the K-spar is more thoroughly sericitized.

The Callahan crosscut was examined briefly (fig. 3). The wall rock is porphyritic quartz monzonite cut by a prominent set of northwestward-trending vertical joints. From the north end of the crosscut drifts extend about 75 feet to the northeast and to the southwest. The drifts did not appear to be safe and therefore were not entered. The northeast drift had been tightly timbered; the timber is now crushed and much of it has collapsed. From what could be seen the drift appeared to follow a shear zone that made heavy ground. The southwest drift appears to have been driven just south of the main shear zone exposed in the northeast drift. It was not timbered and the back had collapsed the length of the drift. In contrast to the northeast drift, the shear zone in the southwest drift is heavily iron stained. Although there is a prominent structure here not much vein material was seen. Some oxidized vein material was seen on the dump.

According to V. B. Pratt the northeast drift was not driven on the vein; he stated that the vein is a short distance in the southeast wall of the drift. Because of the loose ground and a smooth surface on a northward-trending fault on the northeast wall of the crosscut I did not confirm his statement.

On Pratt's surface map (fig. 1) are three northwestward-trending faults that offset the vein. Between the Twilia and Argentite discovery pits (fig. 3) there appears to be a right-lateral fault that offsets the vein about 20 feet. The fault is not exposed, but the discontinuity in the vein appears to require such a fault, and the similarity between the veins exposed in the pits makes it doubtful that they could be different veins. The western fault was not seen and the western offset part of the vein was not examined.

The eastern fault is not exposed at surface, but Pratt pointed out its approximate position and its trend on the hillside. As I understood him the surface expression of the fault is an inconspicuous gully in the hillside. As plotted by Pratt (fig. 2) the fault trends about N. 30° W., is right-lateral, and offsets the vein about 350 feet. I took a Brunton measurement on the trend of the gully (fault) and got a reading of N. 80° W. (fig. 3). The discrepancy between trends was not recognized until after I left the field My inclination would be to accept Pratt's trend for now.

The westward projection of the vein from the exposure near the switchback in the south-central part of the Argentite claim (fig. 1) is based largely on the trend of the vein in a small exposure near the switchback and some scattered float, particularly where the vein projection crosses the road. The eastward projection is based on trend plus some float of vein material that is interpreted to have rolled downhill to the edge of the road (fig. 1).

Vein material near the switchback and found as float is similar to that exposed in the Twilia and Argentite discovery pits, and the applicants have made the interpretation that exposures and float are all parts of the same vein. To support this interpretation are the facts that: (a) vein material was not found at the widened part of the road near the 6,000-foot contour line; and (b) vein material was not found farther southwest on the relatively well-exposed south-facing slope near the Twilia-Argentite common boundary (fig. 1).

SAMPLES

Two samples were taken (fig. 3). Sample No. 918B is a 7-foot chip sample taken from the vein exposed in the face of the Twilia discovery pit. Pratt expected this sample to show low metal values. A second sample of selected material was taken from the dump of the caved adit about 50 feet south of the Twilia discovery pit. This sample was high-grade vein material that Pratt expected to show high metal values. The second sample was later split into 2 samples, 1 (919B) containing no bright sulfides and the other (920B) containing bright sulfides.

The samples were assayed by Peter Mack, Wallace, Idaho, with the following results:

Sample No.	Type sample	Length (feet)	Taken by	Au oz/ton	Ag oz/ton	Pb percent	Zn percent	Cu percent	Remarks
918B	Chip	7	F.C.A.	Tr	0.3	Tr	Tr	N.D.	Oxidized, limonite-stained vein, open network.
919B	Selected	--	F.C.A. & V.B.P.	0.07	55.6	4.65	0.75	0.27	Oxidized, vuggy vein. Quartz crystals in vugs. Faint blue (Cu?) stain. Dull, dark, dusty sulfides (silver minerals?). Dusty and limonite-stained.
920B	Selected	--	F.C.A. & V.B.P.	0.10	24.4	2.3	2.55	0.22	Vuggy; quartz crystals in vugs; galena, medium dark sphalerite, dark dusty sulfides (silver minerals?)

N.D.--not determined
F.C.A.--Frank C. Armstrong
V.B.P.--Vernon B. Pratt

With their application the Pratts have submitted other assays of selected samples that show comparable silver values. Pratt said that none of the samples taken from the shear zone in the Callahan crosscut showed high metal values.

EXPLORATION

The application and later memoranda indicate that the applicants have considered different exploration programs. The program finally chosen involves bulldozing and drifting. It is my understanding that the applicants will accept a two-stage contract. The first stage would be to bulldoze in the southeastern part of the Argentite claim to locate the vein. If the vein is found, the second stage would be to drift southwestward 500 feet on the vein.

RECOMMENDATIONS

I recommend that a two-stage contract be issued for bulldozing and 500 feet of drifting as stipulated under "Exploration." Because of the assays obtained and the similarity between this prospect and the Deadwood mine, from which more than 900,000 (this figure includes Bunker Hill production) ounces of silver was recovered, it seems that there is a reasonable possibility of making a significant silver discovery here.

If the vein is found by the bulldozing proposed, I recommend also that the applicants stake a third claim in such a manner as to include the northeastward projection of the vein and that this claim be included in the contract. The applicants have indicated a willingness to include such a claim in the contract. (See my memorandum June 20, 1967, item 2), but have not yet staked a third claim because they have not been certain of the location of the vein northeast of the Argentite claim.

If drifting is undertaken, it is recommended that provision be made for systematic sampling of each face (and the back where thought necessary) and that the samples be assayed for silver, lead, and zinc. When thought necessary, copper should be assayed for also. If the drift does not expose the full width of the vein, it is recommended that each wall be probed at 10-foot intervals by long holes 10 feet long or deeper, unless the vein can be probed with shorter holes. Sludge samples should be collected from these long holes at intervals no greater than 5 feet and assayed for silver, lead, and zinc, and copper where necessary.

COMMENTS

The applicants have found rather thoroughly leached and oxidized vein material in a thick fault zone that could have a strike length measurable in many hundreds of feet. Samples have been taken from the dumps of inaccessible workings that have assayed many ounces of silver per ton. The question to be resolved is whether the leached outcrops represent minable ore bodies at depth.

It might be well to point out three conditions that can be expected to be found. (1) It is unlikely that all of the shear zone will be ore. It is expectable rather that mineralized vein material will occur as lenses within the shear zone, but there is no way of determining, short of exploration, whether the lenses will be large enough and rich enough to be ore bodies. (2) It can be expected that the boundary between oxidized and unoxidized material will be extremely irregular and will have a wide range in altitude as viewed in vertical longitudinal projection. Again, exploration is the only method of determining the position of this boundary and its range in altitude. (3) It is possible that a zone enriched in silver will be found along the oxidized-unoxidized boundary. Whether such a zone exists and its extent can be determined only by exploration.

The elder applicant, V. B. Pratt, worked at the Deadwood mine and has stated that the geology of his prospect is very similar to that of the Deadwood mine. Although I have not seen the Deadwood mine, I have read about it and studied maps of it. There is a striking similarity between the Deadwood mine and the property considered here. If this similarity can be extended to all items, the applicants in drifting might run into heavy ground that would require considerable timbering.

COMMENTS AND COSTS

(PREPARED BY D. R. MACLAREN)

Armstrong has made a good case for an OME project on this property and with a few minor exceptions I concur with his recommendations. Before I had an opportunity to study seriously the recommended program, Armstrong had left for the field. However, July 2, 1968, he happened to call the office and I was able to discuss the exceptions with him. His intent was to give the applicant some leeway in the location of the trench and he overlooked the fact that nearly all of the proposed work would be done within 100 feet of an exterior property boundary.

The applicant has intended for some time to locate a claim northeast of the Argentite but has delayed doing so until trenching near the northeast claim corner discloses the actual location of the vein. In order to permit either the proposed trench or drift with OME assistance the applicant should first locate a claim in such a manner as to put the work more than 100 feet from an exterior boundary. This could be accomplished by locating the southwest corner 500 feet northeasterly from the Argentite southwest end line and 100 feet northwest of the southeast side line. This would result in a minimal overlap of the two claims. Otherwise, he would have to locate two claims, one paralleling the Argentite to the southeast and one to the northeast end-to-end with the Argentite.

Only after the protecting claim or claims have been located and the book and page on which these locations and that of the Twilia claim are recorded have been furnished is the following two-stage project recommended. Only if Stage I is successful will Stage II be authorized.

Stage I.--Near the 5,700-foot contour and the northeast corner of the Argentite claim (fig. 1) bulldoze a trench to locate the Argentite vein or mineral-bearing structure. It is estimated that a trench as much as 200 feet long and averaging 10 feet deep may be required. After the vein has been located and sampled, or if no vein is found, the trench shall be refilled as nearly as possible. If Stage II is authorized, material bulldozed for a portal site may be used as part of the refill. Estimated time required--5 days.

Stage II.--If Stage I bulldozing locates the vein, prepare a tunnel site and drift southwesterly along the vein or mineral-bearing structure for 500 feet. The drift shall be timbered as necessary and shall be not less than 5 x 7 feet in rock or timbered section. Timbers shall be not less than 8 x 8 inches in section or the equivalent if round timber is used. Provision should be made for

long hole drilling at intervals of 10 feet where vein material completely fills the drift section. The amount of drilling that will be required is difficult to estimate. In order to arrive at a cost estimate it will be assumed that 250 feet of drift may require long holes and that the average depth will be 15 feet.

In the original application V. B. Pratt indicates that he has on hand 500 feet of new $1\frac{1}{2}$" pipe. Presumably, he intends to use this as air line. Ordinarily, the specification for air line would be not less than 2", but as Pratt has had considerable operating experience and should know what he is doing, in this case it should be specified that air line shall be not less than $1\frac{1}{2}$".

COSTS

Stage I

A trench 200' x 10' x 10' would contain 20,000 cubic feet or 740.75 say 800 cubic yards. Because less than 200 linear feet may be required, the contract price should be based on cubic yards. The slope is about 18° and therefore the cost of refilling could be as much as, or more than, the cost of trenching.

1. Independent Contracts — "None"

2. Labor and Supervision

1 dozer operator, 40 hrs at $3/hr	$120.00	
1 swamper, 20 hrs at $2.50	50.00	
	$170.00	
FICA and other insurance at 15%	25.50	
	$195.50	
At 800 yds^3		$0.24/yd^3

3. Operating Materials and Supplies

Fuel, oil, grease, etc. — $0.06/yd^3

4. Operating Equipment

Furnished by Applicant	Present fair market value	Monthly deprec.		
HD-5 dozer	$3,500.00	$58.33		
	At 0.23 months	$13.41		
	At 800 yds^3	$0.0167	say	$0.02/yd^3
	Total			$0.32/yd^3
	Plus 100% for refilling			0.32
	Total for trenching and refilling			$0.64/yd^3

5. and 6. None

7. Miscellaneous

5 samples assayed for silver lead and zinc at $7.50 $37.50

Stage II

Surface.--Portal site preparation, estimated time required 3 days or 24 hours, say 0.14 months.

1. Independent Contracts None

2. Labor and Supervision

1 dozer operator, 24 hrs at $3/hr	$ 72.00	
1 swamper, 12 hrs at $2.50/hr	30.00	
	$102.00	
FICA and other insurance at 15%	15.30	$117.30

3. Operating Materials and Supplies

Fuel, oil, grease, etc., 24 hrs at $1.20/hr 28.80

4. Operating Equipment

Furnished by Applicant	Present fair market value	Monthly deprec.	
HD-5 dozer	$3,500.00	$58.33	
At 0.14 month			8.17
Total cost of job			$154.27

5. Initial Rehab. and Repairs None

6. New Building $220.00

Construct 10' x 20' compressor house. Applicant estimates this will cost him $220 for the job. I believe that $250 is a bit more realistic, but, as stated above, he should know what the job can be done for. Therefore, $220 for the job is acceptable.

Underground.--500 feet of drift, 5' x 7' in section. Estimated rate of advance 5 ft/shift, 1 shift/day, 22 days/month; 110 ft/month, time required 4.5, say 5 months.

1. Independent Contracts — None

2. Labor and Supervision

2 miners at $20/day	$40.00
1 helper-trammer at $18/day	18.00
½ supervisor-engineer-geologist at $30/day	15.00
	$73.00
FICA and other insurance at 15%	10.95
	$83.95

At 5 feet per day $16.79 say $16.80/ft

3. Operating Materials and Supplies (per 5-ft round)

Powder, 35 lbs at $35/cwt	$12.25
Caps, 22 at $0.04 each	0.88
Fuse, 220 ft at $0.05/ft	11.00
Air line, 1½" w/fittings, 450 ft at $0.35/ft (less 50% - no salvage)	0.78
Water line, 1" w/fittings, 450 ft at $0.40/ft (less 50% - no salvage)	0.90
Vent line, 8", 450 ft at $1.25/ft (less 50% - no salvage)	2.80
Rail, 16#, 3 T at $350/T (less 50% - no salvage)	5.25
Fish plates, spikes, etc., at $0.54/ft	2.70
Ties, 2, at $0.45 each	0.90
Air hose, 1" w/fittings, 150 ft at $0.57/ft	0.85
Water hose, 3/4" w/fittings, 150 ft at $0.28/ft	0.40
Fuel, oil, grease	5.50
Steel, 1 replaced/300 ft at $14.30 132 ft/round	6.29
Bits, 1 replaced/300 ft at $12.15 each 132 ft/round	5.35
Repairs and upkeep at $0.60/ft	3.00
Small tools, repair parts, etc., at $0.50/ft	2.50
	$61.35

At 5 feet per round $12.27/ft

4. Operating Equipment

Furnished by Applicant	Present fair market value	Monthly deprec.
Worthington 315 compressor	$1,000.00	$16.67
IR Jackleg drill	1,564.00	26.07
16 cu.ft. mine car	175.00	2.92
Mucking machine	2,500.00	41.67
Bit grinder	623.00	10.38
15 gal. water tank	89.00	1.48
$1\frac{1}{2}$ ton dump truck	650.00	10.83
		$110.02

At 5 months $550.10

At 110 feet per month $5.00/ft

5. and 6. None

7. Miscellaneous

Long hole drilling 750 ft at $1.20/ft		$ 900.00	
Assaying 150 sludge and 100 channel sample assays for: Silver, lead, and zinc at $7.50	$1,875.00		
and 50 for copper at $1.90 1/	95.00	1,970.00	$2,870.00

Unit cost for drifting $34.07 say $34.00/ft

1/ Handling costs are included in cost of samples to be assayed for silver, lead, and zinc.

DRIFT TIMBERING

It is estimated that 75 percent of the drift or 375 feet may require timbering. Two miners and a helper should be able to stand, block, and lag 3 sets or 15 feet per shift. Time required, 25 days, say 1 month.

1. Independent Contracts — None

2. Labor and Supervision

2 miners at $20/day	$40.00
1 helper at $18/day	18.00
	$58.00
FICA and other insurance at 15%	8.70
	$66.70

At 15 feet per day — $4.45/ft

3. Operating Materials and Supplies

150 posts, 8"x8"x7'	=	5,600 bf
75 caps, 8"x8"x6'4"	=	2,533 bf
148 collar braces 4"x6"x4'4"	=	1,283 bf
1,350 lagging 3"x12"x5'	=	20,250 bf
		29,666 bf

At $75/Mbf	$2,224.95
Plus 10% for blocks, wedges, etc.	222.49
	$2,447.44

At 375 feet of timber — $6.52/ft

4.,5., 6., and 7 — None

Unit cost for timbering — $10.97/ft

RECAPITULATION

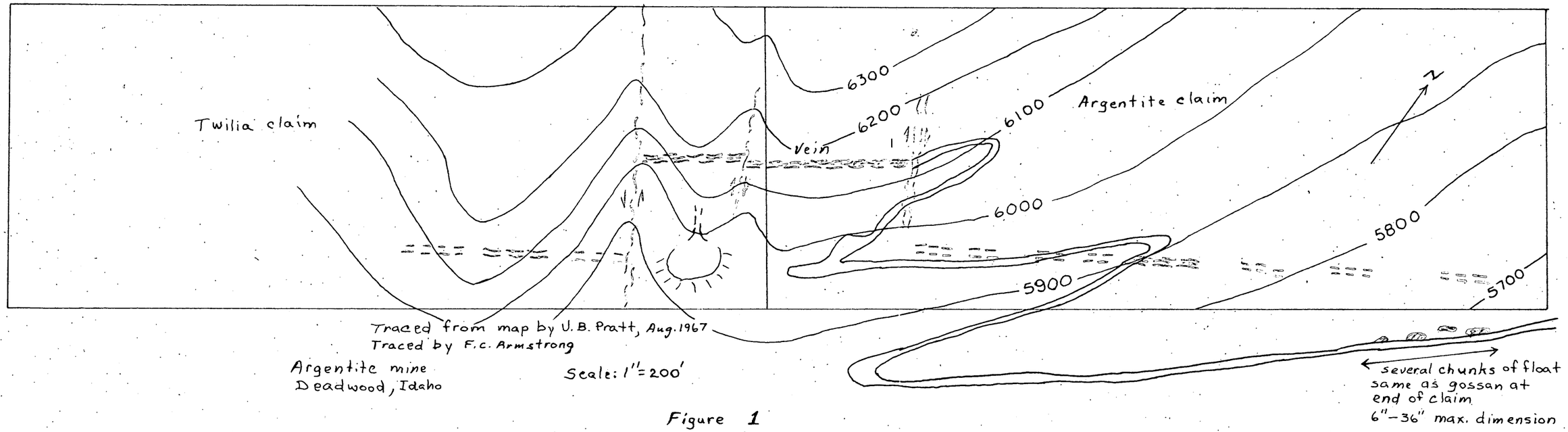
Stage I

Trenching and refilling, 1 job, 800 yds^3 at $0.64/$yd^3$	$512.00
Assaying, 5 samples at $7.50	37.50
Total cost - Stage I	$549.50
Government participation at 75%	$412.12

Stage II

Prepare portal site, 1 job	$ 154.27
Build compressor house, 1 job, 10'x20'	220.00
Drifting, 500 ft at $34.00	17,000.00
Drift timbering, 375 ft at $10.97	4,113.75
Long hole drilling, 750 ft at $1.20	900.00
Assays, 250 at $7.50	1,875.00
50 at $1.90	95.00
Total cost - Stage II	$24,358.02
Government participation at 75%	$18,268.52
Total cost Stages I and II	$24,907.52
Government participation at 75%	$18,680.64

Enclosures
Distribution:
OME
USGS(SRO)
Docket
J. Olsen
F. C. Armstrong

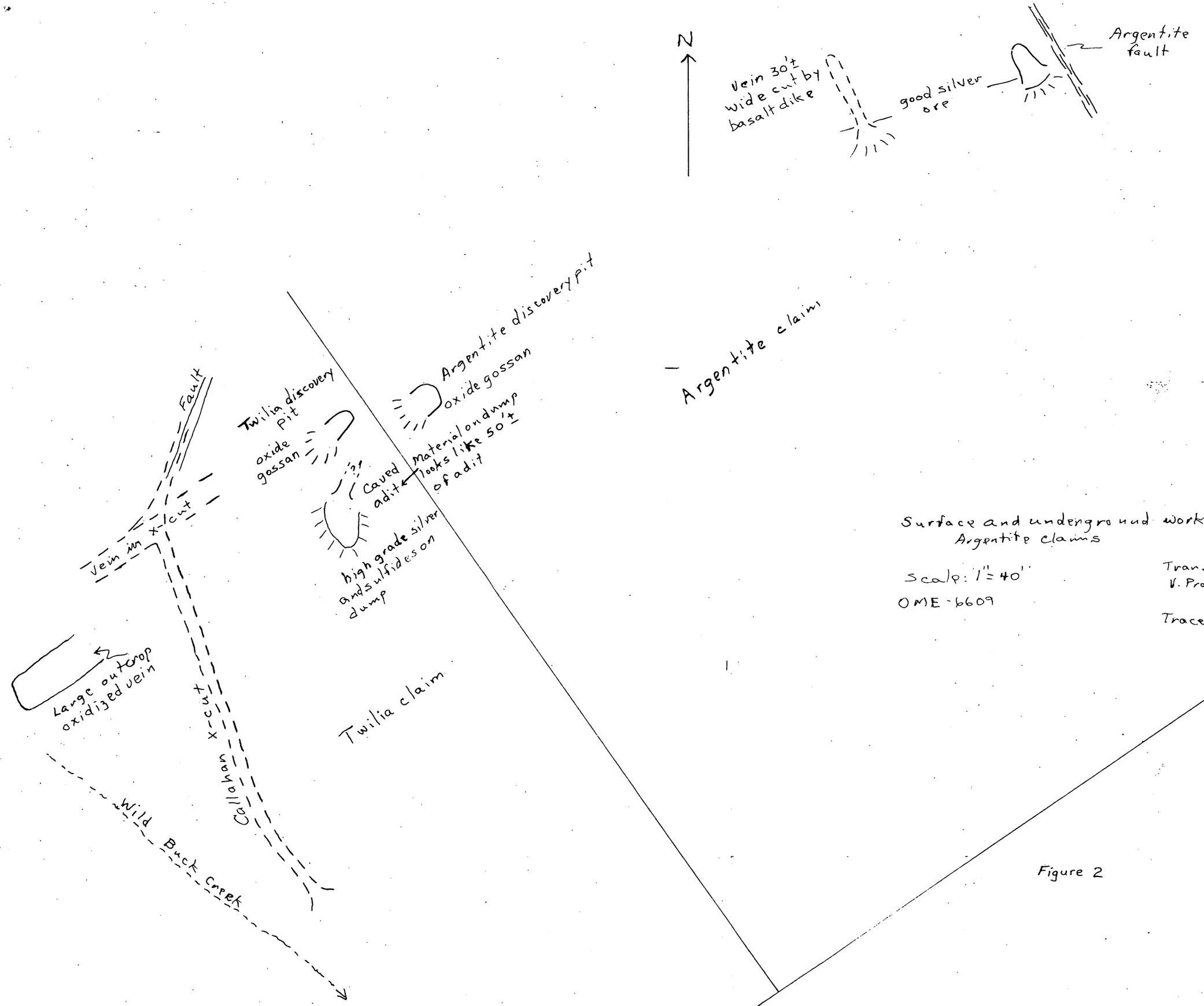


Traced from map by U. B. Pratt, Aug. 1967
Traced by F. C. Armstrong

Argentite mine
Deadwood, Idaho

Scale: 1" = 200'

Figure 1



Surface and underground workings
Argentite claims

Scale: 1" = 40'

OME-6609

Transit survey
V. Pratt 1967

Traced by F.C. Armstrong

Figure 2

OFFICIAL
COPY
O. M. E.
RECEIVED
MAY 10 1968
INITIALS CODE
130
120 M
110
120 P

May 7, 1968

Memorandum

To: Files

From: Frank C. Armstrong

Subject: Telephone conversation with Vernon B. Pratt, 10:00 AM, May 7, 1968, regarding OME-6609 (Silver)
Argentite et al. claims
Valley County, Idaho

1. Pratt will send a sketch map to accompany application that will show:

    1. Location of vein float near north end of Argentite claim near proposed adit site.

    2. Twilia discovery pit.

    3. Dump from which samples were taken and possibly bearing of the caved adit.

    4. Short adit near center of Argentite claim.

    5. Trenches and what was found in them--if he has the information.

    6. Portal of the Callahan adit and bearing if he has it.

2. It was suggested that the value of the equipment Pratt will use be documented so he can claim depreciation on it.

3. It was suggested that sampling and assay costs be included in his cost per foot.

4. The alternate plan to sink a shaft was discussed. Pratt's idea is to sink a shaft (on the vein?) from surface near the north end of the Argentite claim. It was pointed out that a specific plan of sinking and drifting would have to be submitted and should include maps and sections with amounts of sinking and drifting specified. To supply this information Pratt would have to delay submittal of his application until next year. Because of these considerations and the indefiniteness of the proposal to sink to the sulfide zone, Pratt agreed that the original drifting proposal probably was better at this time. He said he would accept a two-phase contract of bulldozing and drifting, the drifting to be dependent upon his finding the vein by bulldozing.

MME FORM 6 REFERENCE SLIP

REV. 2-59 OFFICE OF MINERALS EXPLORATION

TO:	DATE	INITIALS
1. Chief OME	5/14/68	
2.		
3.		
4.		
5. WBWachsen		

FROM: Field Officer, Region I

FOR: Check items for action desired

____ Action ____ Reply for signature of ____

____ Approval ____ Investigate ____ Surname

____ Comment ____ Recommendations ____ Signature

____ Conference ____ Rewrite ____ File

____ Instructions X Your information

REMARKS: To supplement application
OME-6609 (Silver)
Pratt and Pratt
Argentite Prospect
Valley County, Idaho

M56300-62

INT.-DUP. SEC., WASH., D.C.

ARGENTITE prospect
OME-6609
(ammended application)

Vernon B. Pratt
208 Crown Lane
Bellingham, Wash. 98225

OFFICIAL
COPY
O. M. E.
RECEIVED
MAY 15 1968
INITIAL | CODE
130
120M
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120P

7. Estimate of cost:

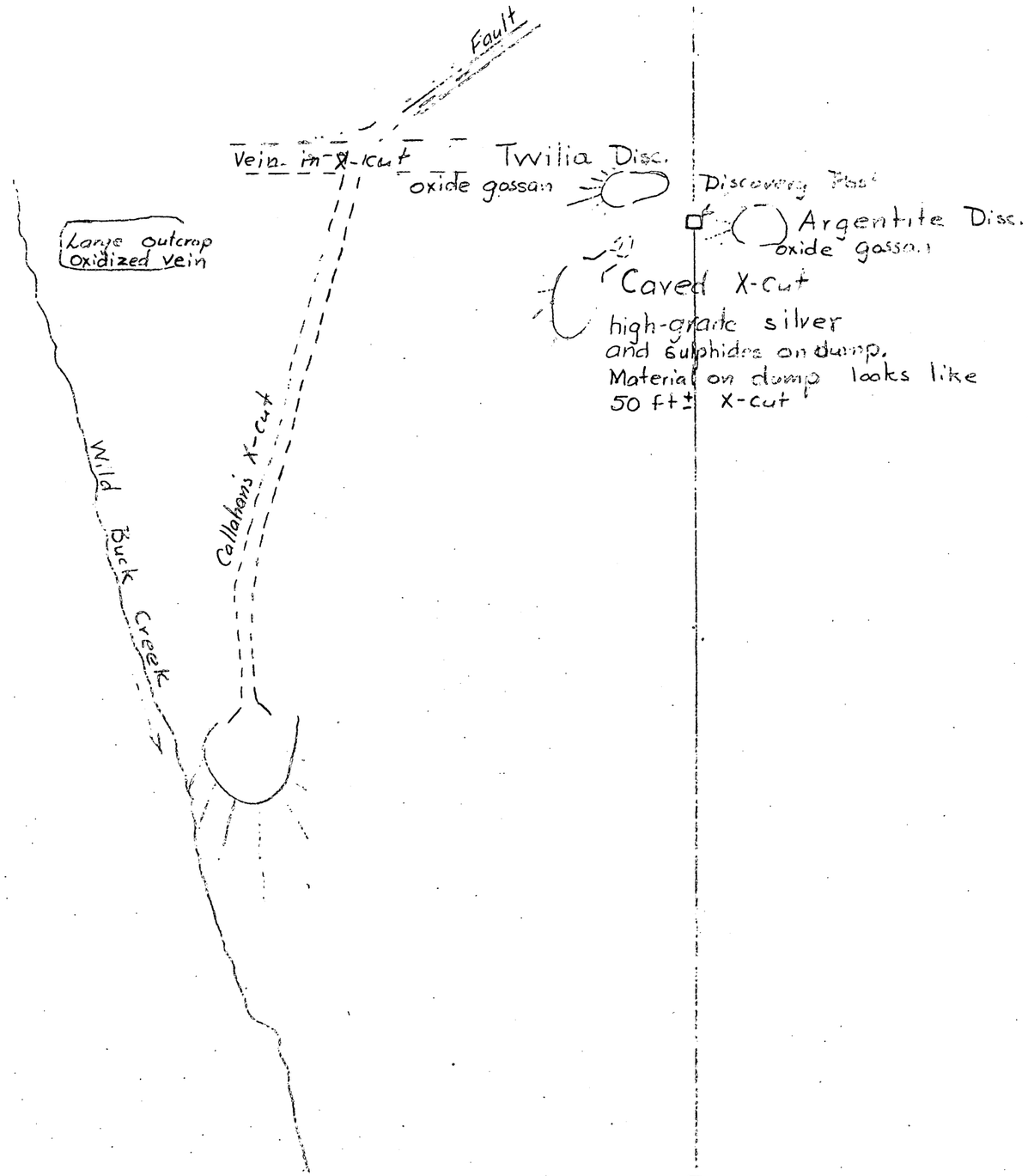
(d) I have the following equipment which will be used in this exploration work.

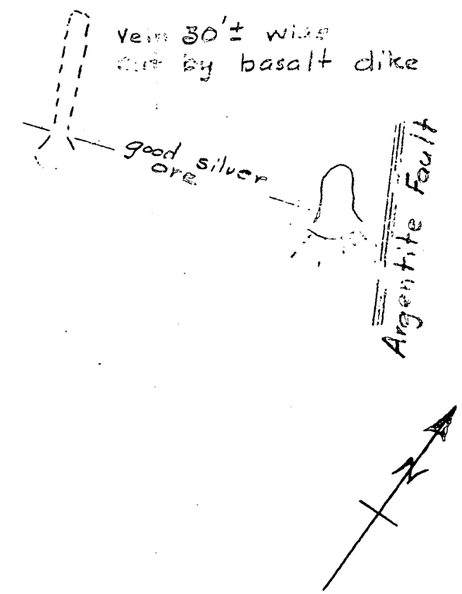
Allis-Chalmers HD-5 cat present value	$3,500.
Worthington 315 ft. compressor	1,000
1½ ton ford dump truck, '46 model	650
S63 Gardner-Denver sinker	310
S55 Gardner-Denver Jackhammer	125
Total	5,585

All of the above equipment is used but in good operating condition.

(g) Miscellaneous:
Assaying, 100 silver assays @ $2.00 each $200.

RECEIVED
MAY 14 1968
O. M. E.
OLYMPIA, WASH.



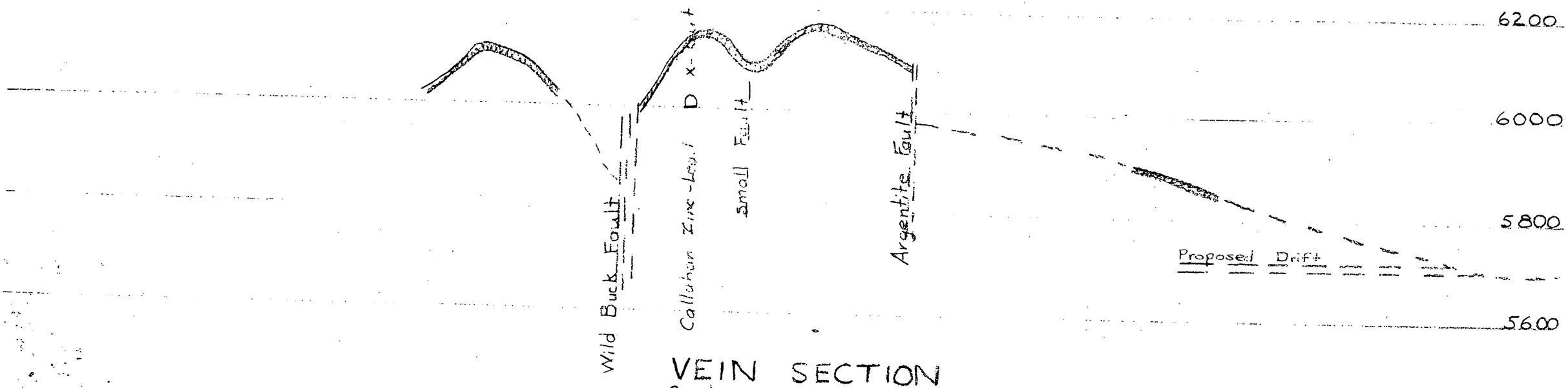


SURFACE AND UNDERGROUND WORKINGS
ARGENTITE CLAIMS

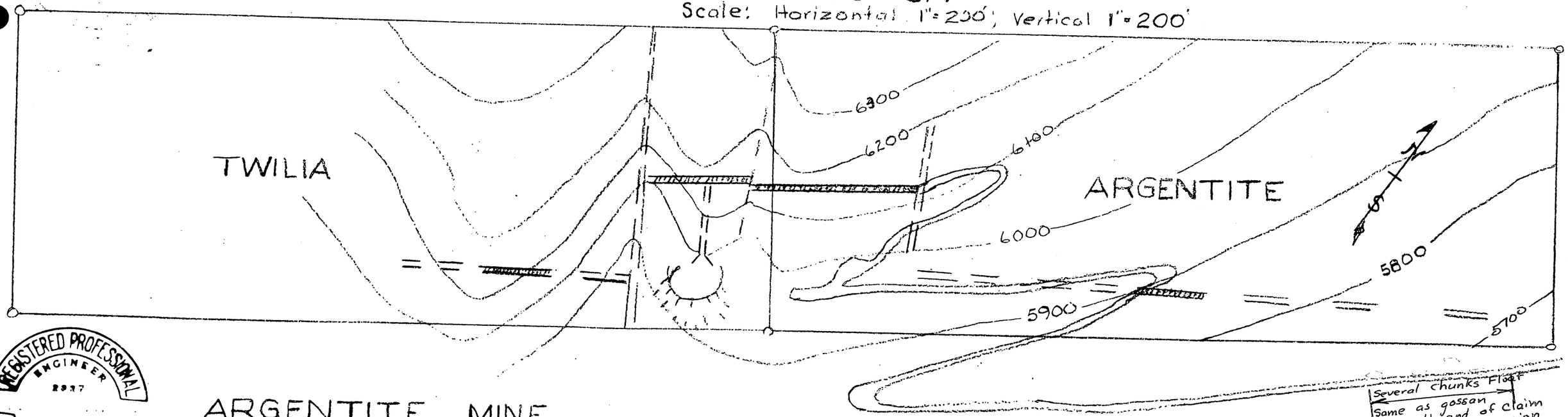
Scale 1" = 40'

Transit Survey 1967 V. Pratt

OME-6609



VEIN SECTION
Scale: Horizontal 1"=200'; Vertical 1"=200'



REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER 2937 OREGON NOV. 10, 1961 VERNON B. PRATT

ARGENTITE MINE
DEADWOOD, IDAHO
Surveyed Aug. 1967 Scale 1"=200'
OME-6609

MME FORM 6 REFERENCE SLIP
REV. 2-59 OFFICE OF MINERALS EXPLORATION

TO: Chief, OME	DATE	INITIALS
1.	5/7/68	
2.		
3.		
4.		
5. O.W. Lee Perry		

FROM: Field Officer Region I

OFFICIAL COPY
O. M. E.
RECEIVED
MAY 9 1968
INITIALS CODE
130
1/20 MO
Supreme
Signature

FOR: Check items for action desired

____ Action ____ Reply for signature of ____
____ Approval ____ Investigate ____
____ Comment ____ Recommendations ____
____ Conference ____ Rewrite ____ File
____ Instructions X Your information

REMARKS: To supplement application OME-6609 (silver Pratt and Pratt Argentite Prospect Valley County, Idaho

INT.-DUP. SEC., WASH., D.C. M56300-62

RECEIVED
MAY 14 1968
SPOKANE, WASH.

RECEIVED
MAY 6 1968
U.M.E.
SPOKANE, WASH.

Argentite prospect
OME-6609
(amended application II)

Vernon B. Pratt
208 Crown Lane
Bellingham, Wash.

1. Financial Eligibility:

(a) I am enclosing corespondence with two banks at Boise, Idaho. I have an account at the Idaho First National and my son has an account at the First Security Bank of Idaho.

5. Exploration Work:

(a) As there is a possibility that a 500 foot drift from the north end of the Argentite claim would not gain enough depth to penetrate primary sulphides. I suggest as an alternative that a shaft be sunk to the sulphide zone and then a drift driven south on the vein.

3. Physical Description:

(f) I am enclosing the results of an assay on a sample obtained by crushing and quartering about 15 pounds of ore which I obtained last summer, from the dump about 25 feet south of the Twilia discovery. I selected this sample as I felt it was representative of the secondary enrichment showing at that point and on the dumps to the north east to the Argentite fault.

7. Estimate of Costs:

(b) I will sink the shaft, 5' X 10' in cross section either vertical or inclined at 60 degrees for a unit cost of $50.00 a foot. Timbering would cost $20.00 a foot. It is probable that an enclined shaft could be sunk without timber.

Drifting from the bottom of this shaft would be more expensive than directly from the surface but could be done for a unit cost of $30 a foot.

GEOPHYSICAL AND
GEOCHEMICAL EXPLORATION
SPECTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS
OREGON LICENSE 2327

TELEPHONE 384-8487

VERNON B. PRATT, P. E.
CONSULTING MINING ENGINEER
~~MOUNTAIN~~
~~PERMANENT WASHINGTON~~
208 Crown Lane
Bellingham, Wash. 98225
April 5, 1968

Idaho First National Bank

Boise, Idaho

Dear Sirs;

My son and I own a mining property in the Deadwood mining distrct, Valley county, Idaho. We have about $5,000 worth of mining equipment but will need additional financing of $15,000 for an exploration program to determine if this property contains a valuable deposit of silver ore.

We would like to learn if we could borrow this amount and if so under what terms.

Sincerely yours,

Vernon B. Pratt

Vernon B. Pratt

HEAD OFFICE

The Idaho First National Bank

ESTABLISHED 1867

BOISE, IDAHO

April 8, 1968

Mr. Vernon B. Pratt, P.E.
208 Crown Lane
Bellingham, Washington 98225

Dear Mr. Pratt:

We have considered your application for a $15,000 loan for the purpose of a mining exploration program, and we feel that this loan entails entirely too much speculation from the standpoint of our bank considering your credit request.

In reviewing your assets, it appears that most of your major assets are fairly heavily encumbered, and as a result of this, we would not be able to support this loan with those assets.

Thank you for your continued depository relationship.

Sincerely,

G. W. Harris

G. W. Harris
Assistant Vice President

GWH:ac

GEOPHYSICAL AND
GEOCHEMICAL EXPLORATION
SPECTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS
OREGON LICENSE 2327

TELEPHONE 384-8487

VERNON B. PRATT, P. E.
CONSULTING MINING ENGINEER

208 Crown Lane
Bellingham, Wash. 98225
April 5, 1968

First Security Bank

Boise, Idaho

Dear Sirs;

My son and I own a mining property in the Deadwood mining District, Valley county, Idaho. We have about $5,000 worth of mining equipment but will need additional financing of $15,000 for an exploration program to determine if this property contains a valuable deposit of silver ore.

We would like to learn if we could borrow this amount and if so under what terms.

Sincerely yours,
Vernon B. Pratt
Vernon B. Pratt

First Security Bank of Idaho
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
BOISE OFFICE

BOISE, IDAHO

April 23, 1968

Mr. Vernon B. Pratt
208 Crown Lane
Bellingham, Washington

Dear Mr. Pratt:

We have today had the opportunity to consider your application for a loan for $15,000.00 to do exploratory mining in the Deadwood mining district of Valley County, Idaho.

It is our feeling that because of the speculative nature of such a request, plus the five-year repayment terms needed, that it does not meet the qualifications required by our bank lending policy at this particular time. However, we do appreciate your giving us the opportunity to be of service.

Yours very truly,

L. Keith Robison

L. Keith Robison
Assistant Vice President

jl

OUR MOTTO: — WHAT THERE IS IN IT, NO MORE NO LESS.

EDMUND E. PHILLIPS, VICE-PRES.—GEN. MGR.

M. E. PHILLIPS, SECRETARY

THE COLORADO ASSAYING COMPANY

(INCORPORATED)

ASSAYERS AND CHEMISTS

2244 BROADWAY

DENVER, COLORADO 80201 April 26, 1968.

REPORT ON DETERMINATIONS MADE FOR — Mr. Vernon B. Pratt,
Bellingham, Washington.

SAMPLE MARKS	METALS	Amount per Ton Ozs.	Amount per Ton Hds.	PER CENT		Value per Ton Dollars	Value per Ton Cents
#4	Silver	38.	70			77.	40

GOLD AT _____ PER OUNCE
LEAD AT _____ PER UNIT

SILVER AT $2.00 PER OUNCE
COPPER AT _____ PER UNIT

THE COLORADO ASSAYING COMPANY

By Ed Phillips

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF MINERALS EXPLORATION
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
U. S. Court House, Rm. 656
W. 920 Riverside Avenue
Spokane, Washington 99201
March 25, 1968

MAR 26 1968

Memorandum

To: Chief, Office of Minerals Exploration

From: Field Officer, Region I

Subject: Revised Application OME-6609 (Silver)
Vernon B. Pratt and William N. Pratt
Argentite, et al., Claims
Valley County, Idaho

The enclosed copy of a revised application was reviewed and discussed with Frank Armstrong who inspected the property August 15, 1967. Many points needed clarification and as the working season is short it was agreed that Armstrong should call Pratt in order to explain more fully what data are necessary.

1. Due to a misunderstanding on Pratt's part, he neglected to meet the requirements for new bank letters. He will write to two banks in Boise right away.

2. Asked to submit copies of Dr. Goodspeed's report on the latter's petrographic study, if available, Pratt said none was submitted. He discussed with Goodspeed three ore thin sections that had been made. This discussion will be summarized in a field report.

3. Pratt will submit more information including:

(a) A map of the trenches showing what they exposed.

(b) A map showing the location of his high-grade float near the proposed tunnel site, the locations and trends of an adit near the center of the vein and an adit from whose dump samples were taken, and possibly some other sample locations with assays. Regarding the latter, Pratt omitted sample assays because he felt that such assays would be of little value since the samples were taken in oxidized and leached parts of the vein. He will also submit a map of the Callahan workings.

(c) Pratt would consider a staged contract in which drifting would depend upon whether preliminary trenching located the vein at or near his proposed tunnel site but will not consider a first stage of diamond drilling.

He feels that he is not qualified to do the drilling himself and that even though it were done by a competent driller the results would not be sufficiently meaningful to warrant the expense; he feels that he would be wasting his money.

(d) Pratt will furnish data on the value of his equipment so that a cost estimate more realistic than his $25.00 per foot overall costs can be prepared.

When the additional data are received, Armstrong believes that it, along with the data he gathered during his August 15, 1967 inspection, may permit him to prepare a report without another field examinaion.

D. R. MacLaren

D. R. MacLaren

Enclosure
cc: Armstrong

RECEIVED
MAR 19 1968
O.M.E.
SPOKANE, WASH

ARGENTITE prospect
OME-6609
(amended application)

Vernon B. Pratt
208 Crown Lane 206-734-8128
Bellingham, Wash.

1. Financial Eligibility:

(a) Photostats of letters to my two banks were submitted with the original application.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) We have acquired a compressor and additional equipment and have on hand $2,000 so that we will be able to do the work on a unit cost basis with our work supplying our share of the cost.

2. Applicants rights in the land:

(a) The southwesterly extension of the Argentite vein was located as the Twilia lode claim and recorded at the Valley County court house in book 14, page 287. Assesment work on the Argentite claim was done for the 67-68 year and proof of labor filed.

(b) No change.

(c) Not applicable.

3. Physical description:

(a) A transit, brunton, altimeter survey was made during the past summer and from this information a new plan and section has been drawn.

(b) No. change.

(c) No change.

(d) No change.

(e) Trenching work during the past summer revealed the presence of the fault I labeled "Argentite" this fault displaces the vein about 250 feet horizontaly.

Dr. G. E. Goodspeed of the University of Washington geology department, has made a petrographic study of some of the vein specimens and it is his conclusion that the vugs that are so prominent in the surface material, resulted from the leaching of primary sulphides and not from the leaching of gangue minerals.

ARGENTITE prospect
OME-6609
(amended application)

Vernon B. Pratt
208 Crown Lane
Bellingham, Wash.

3. Physical description. (cont.)

(f) No change.

(g) No change.

4. Accessibility of the property:

(a) No change.

(b) No change.

5. Exploration work:

(a) The discovery of the Argentite fault and the finding of a considerable amount of excellent float near the north end of the Argentite claim has made it necessary to change the location of the proposed drift to a point near the northeast end of the claim. The exact location to be determined by trenchingto be done the first thing next summer.

The possibility of diamond drilling from the surface in the area at the south end of the claim has been considered. It is my estimate that at least six holes of 300 to 400 feet in length for a total of not less than 2000 feet would be required. The cost would exceed $20,000. In the past I have had some very disappointing experiences in attempting to evaluate an ore deposit of this type by diamond drilling and I would not be willing to risk my funds on such an exploration program.

A 500 foot drift driven from a point near the north end of the Argentite claim, should obtain a depth of about 200 feet and should penetrate both the zone of secondary silver enrichment and primary sulphide zone. This amount of drifting could be done for about thre fourths the cost of a diamond drilling program and make available much more of the vein for sampling and offer more opportunity for studying the geology of the vein.

(b) A close study of the road problem last summer, revealed that there was a point where we were able to ford the river with trucks and cats during the time we will be working in the area. The Forest Service has issued a special use permit to use the old access road and to build a bridge if we desire.

ARGENTITE prospect
OME-6609
(ammended application)

Vernon B. Pratt
208 Crown Lane
Bellingham, Wash.

5. Exploration work: (continued)

(c) We will be able to begin work at the property by June 20th and should start drifting by July 1st and continue for six weeks with a probable progress of 35 feet a week for a total of 200 feet in 1968, the rest of the 500 feet to be completed in 1969.

6. Experience:

No change.

7. Estimate of cost:

(a) A small bulldozer tractor will be required to do trenching on the vein, to prepare the portal site and to move supplies and equipment accros the river. A suitable tractor can be rented at $500 per month.

2 months rent in 68 and 2 months in 69 total	$2000.00
Freight on tractor, Boise-Deadwood and return 2 trips @ $250 each	500.00

(b) I will perform the necessary engineering and geological work without charge.

We will drive the drift, furnishing all supplies, equipment and labor for a unit cost of $25 per foot.

500 feet @ $25 per foot	12500.00

(c) Operating materials and supplies.
None

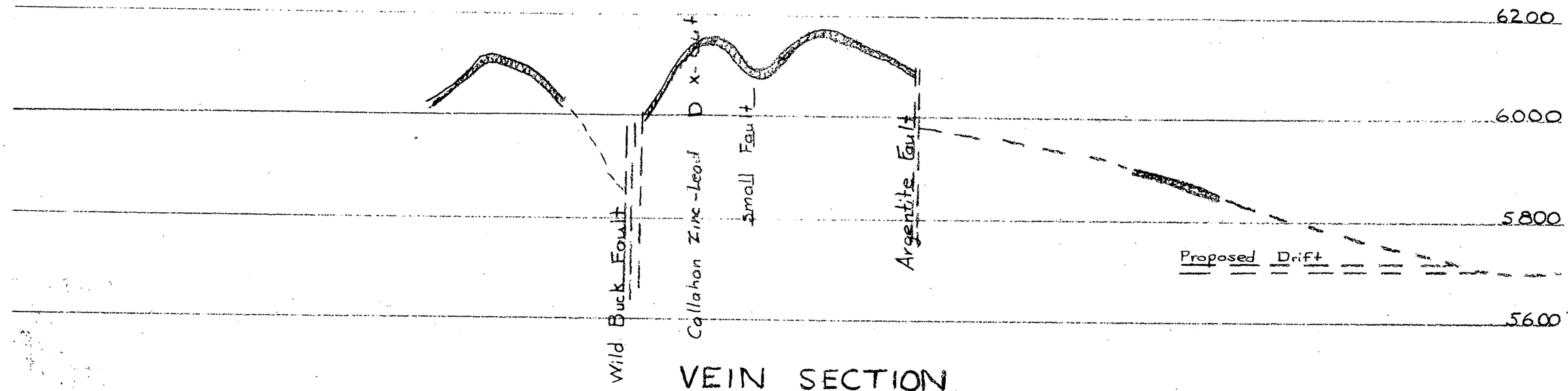
(d) Operating equipment:
None

(e) Initial rehabilitation and repairs:
None

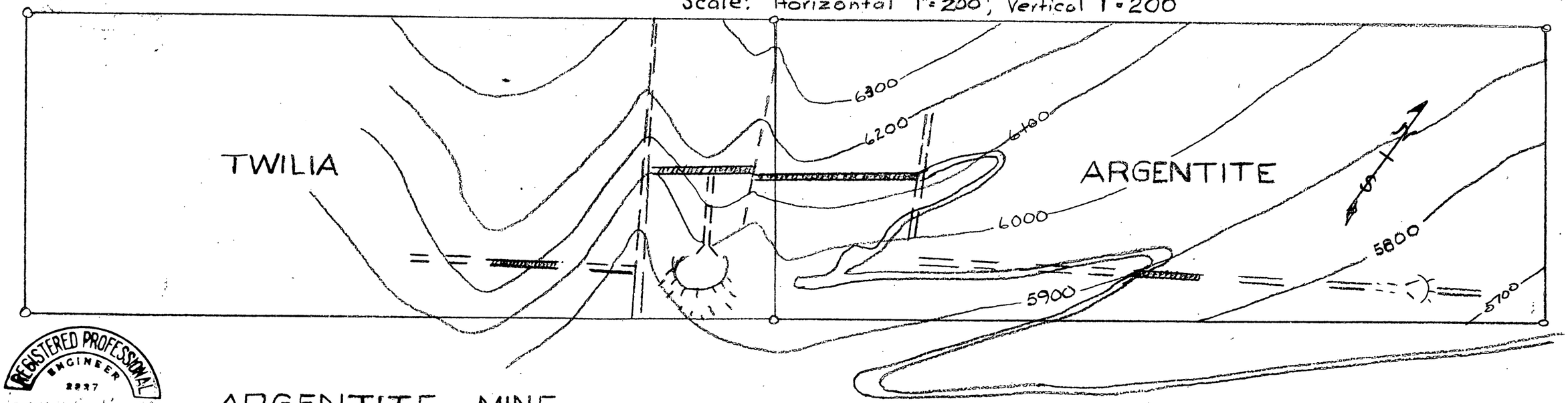
(f) New buildings, fixtures, installations.
None

(g) Miscellaneous:
None

Total cost	15000.00



VEIN SECTION
Scale: Horizontal 1"=200'; Vertical 1"=200'



REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER 2237 OREGON NOV. 10, 1944 VERNON B. PRATT

ARGENTITE MINE
DEADWOOD, IDAHO
Surveyed Aug. 1967 Scale 1"=200'

OME-6609
Item 3 (c)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF MINERALS EXPLORATION
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
So. 157 Howard Street
Spokane, Washington 99204
September 6, 1967

ORIGINAL COPY
C. M. E.
RECEIVED
SEP 8 1967
INITIALS | CODE
120

Memorandum

To: Chief, Office of Minerals Exploration

From: Frank C. Armstrong, Geologist F.C.A.

Subject: OME-6609 (Silver)
Vernon B. Pratt and William N. Pratt
Argentite Claim
Valley County, Idaho

The afternoon of August 15, 1967, from about 1:00 to 6:30 p.m. I spent with Messrs. Vernon B. Pratt and William N. Pratt discussing the above application and examining the Argentite claim and Twilia claim, which is south of the Argentite claim.

Mr. Vernon B. Pratt said that they will submit a revised application some time later in the year. The new application will include the Twilia claim and new maps and other information obtained this past summer.

Mr. Vernon B. Pratt at the time of my visit was of the opinion that next summer the first exploration to be undertaken should be diamond drilling rather than drifting as originally proposed. The presence of cross faults that offset the vein and the possibility that oxidation may extend to a great depth are the reasons given for his change of mind. When I spoke with him, we agreed that a segment of the vein on the Argentite claim about 400 feet long that is bounded at both ends by faults probably should be the first area to be drilled.

The Forest Service has given Mr. Pratt permission to build a bridge across the Deadwood River, and the specifications do not make the bridge as costly as Mr. Pratt had anticipated. Accordingly, if a contract is granted, he plans to build the bridge and will not build the "pioneer" road mentioned in his original application. From even a brief visit to the property it is apparent that the sensible approach for this exploration is to build a bridge, not to build a road.

Material sufficient to write an on-site examination report on this property was gathered. When the revised application is received, the report will be written.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
So. 157 Howard Street
Spokane, Washington 99204
August 7, 1967

OFFICIAL COPY
O. M. E.
RECEIVED
AUG 9 1967

INITIALS	CODE
[illegible]	120M
[illegible]	110
HRJ	120
(Peterson)	

AIR MAIL

Mr. Vernon B. Pratt
c/o General Delivery
Cascade, Idaho 83611

Re: OME-6609 (Silver)
Argentite Claim
Valley County, Idaho

Dear Mr. Pratt:

Please meet me at 8:30 a.m. the morning of Tuesday, August 15, 1967, at the bridge across the Deadwood River in the NW¼ sec. 21, T. 12 N., R. 7 E., Valley County, Idaho, about 2 miles southeast of the Argentite property.

We'll go to the property together from there.

A copy of this letter is being sent to you at Cabin 18, Deadwood Lodge, Valley County, Idaho.

Sincerely yours,

Frank C. Armstrong
Geologist

cc: Mr. Vernon B. Pratt
Cabin 18
Deadwood Lodge
Valley County, Idaho

Jerry Olson, Chief
Branch of Radioactive Materials

OME ✓

Director's Reading File

FCArmstrong/mls

OME

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
So. 157 Howard Street
Spokane, Washington 99204
July 21, 1967

OFFICIAL COPY

AIR MAIL

Mr. Vernon B. Pratt
4562 Gulf Road
Ferndale, Washington 98248

Re: OME-6609 (Silver)
Argentite Claim
Valley County, Idaho

Dear Mr. Pratt:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter to which I have not yet received a reply.

When and where might we meet later this summer?

Sincerely yours,

Frank C. Armstrong
Geologist

Enclosure
cc: Vernon B. Pratt
c/o Bellingham Technical School
Bellingham, Washington

Jerry Olson, Chief
Branch of Radioactive Materials

OME

Director's Reading File

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
So. 157 Howard Street
Spokane, Washington 99204
July 12, 1967

OFFICIAL COPY

AIR MAIL

Mr. Vernon B. Pratt
General Delivery
Lowman, Idaho 83637

Re: OME-6609 (Silver)
Vernon B. and William M. Pratt
Argentite Claim
Valley County, Idaho

Dear Mr. Pratt:

When I saw you in June you said that by mid-July your Argentite claim should be accessible and the surface exposures mucked out so that they could be examined. If the Argentite claim is ready to be examined, can you meet me at 8:00 a.m. the morning of July 20 at the cafe in Lowman?

Please let me know as soon as possible whether the claim is ready and you can meet me, because if we cannot examine the claim together I'll not go to Lowman. Please write me at the above address. I plan to leave here after mail the morning of July 17. If mail will not reach me in time, telephone me at 509-TE8-3361, Ext. 121. I plan to stay at the Sunliner Motel in Boise the night of July 19.

Sincerely yours,

F. C. Armstrong
Geologist

FCArmstrong/mls
cc: OME
Armstrong
J. Olson
Director's Reading File

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF MINERALS EXPLORATION
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
So. 157 Howard Street
Spokane, Washington 99204
June 20, 1967

OFFICIAL COPY
O. M. E.
RECEIVED
JUN 22 1967
INITIALS | CODE
gla | 120 M
EB | 110
EB | 120 P

Memorandum

To: Chief, Office of Minerals Exploration

From: Frank C. Armstrong, Geologist F. C. A.

Subject: OME-6609 (Silver)
Vernon B. and William N. Pratt
Argentite Claim
Valley County, Idaho

The evening of Tuesday June 13, 1967 I spent from about 8:30 p.m. to about 10:30 p.m. talking to Mr. Vernon B. Pratt about the above OME application.

Mr. Pratt said that he and his son, William N. Pratt, had spent the past 2 days trying to get to their Argentite claim. Because of snow they could get no closer than 10 miles. Mr. Pratt said that it would be useless to walk in because snow would prevent our seeing surface exposures. He estimated that it would be 2 to 3 weeks before the snow would be gone and that it would take about another week to clean up the pits so that the vein could be seen. The middle of July seemed about the earliest an examination could be made.

Because of the delay Mr. Pratt said that he could not undertake the OME project this summer. He suggested that the property be examined later this summer so that the project can be started, if a contract is granted, as early as possible in 1968. I told him that someone would examine his property later this year.

We discussed several items concerning the application:

1. Pratt will get statements of financial eligibility from local (Boise?) banks later this year or early next year.

2. Pratt intends to stake one claim along the extension of the vein northeast of the Argentite claim and one claim along the extension of the vein southwest of the Argentite claim. Both these claims will be included in modifications to his application to be submitted later this year or early next year.

3. Pratt said he would submit a longitudinal projection of the vein based on a traverse to be run northeastward from Wild Buck Creek. This will replace the sketch longitudinal projection in the application, and will permit a more accurate determination of the backs to be developed by the proposed adit.

4. The possibility of diamond drilling rather than drifting was discussed. Pratt said that at the nearby Deadwood mine, formerly operated by Callahan Zinc-Lead Co. (where Pratt worked as a mining engineer and to which he compares the Argentite claim deposit), diamond drilling did not prove a useful tool in determining whether or not the ore structure (fault) was mineralized. He did say, however, that drilling was useful in exploring for extensions of the ore structure. He believes that drifting is the only suitable method for determining whether the fault exposed on the Argentite claim contains mineralized zones of economic size and grade. At a later date diamond drilling might be used to locate extensions of the ore structure.

5. Pratt said that he was having difficulty with the local forest ranger over access to the property. He said that the Forest Service would not permit him to construct a temporary bridge across the Deadwood River. He stated that the Forest Service had said that if he built a bridge it would have to be to Forest Service specifications. Although he was not given the specifications, he assumed that concrete abutments would be required, and he estimated that a permanent bridge would cost about $10,000.00. He estimated the cost of the "pioneer" road suggested in his application to be about $2,000.00. The gist of the rest of his remarks on this subject were that the local forest ranger said that Pratt did not have a mine or valid mineral discovery and therefore was not entitled to a permit to build a "pioneer" road. It seems to me that the local forest ranger is not only exceeding his authority but is entirely out of his field of competence.

6. Pratt plans to rent a compressor. He has the other equipment necessary for driving the drift. He will submit data supporting cost of rental.

7. Pratt will contract bulldozing of the "pioneer" road and will submit bids with the other modifications to his application.

cc: Armstrong

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
So. 157 Howard Street
Spokane, Washington 99204
May 22, 1967

AIRMAIL

Mr. Vernon B. Pratt and
Mr. William N. Pratt
4562 Gulf Road
Berndale, Washington 98248

Re: OME-6609 (Silver)
Argentite Mine
Valley County, Idaho

Gentlemen:

Mr. D. R. MacLaren has asked me to examine your property for him.

At present, I tentatively plan to be in the Boise area about June 7 to make other OME examinations. By that date, will the snow be gone from the Argentite mine and will the property be accessible by road? Can some one be there to show me over the property and where shall we meet?

If it is not possible to examine your property about that date, or a few days later because of other commitments, it might be some time before Mr. MacLaren or I will be in the Boise area again.

Sincerely yours,

Frank C. Armstrong
Geologist

F.C.Armstrong/mls

cc: OME
Armstrong

Director's Reading File

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
So. 157 Howard Street
Spokane, Washington 99204
April 7, 1967

Mr. Vernon B. Pratt and
Mr. William N. Pratt
4562 Gulf Road
Ferndale, Washington 98248

Re: OME-6609 (Silver)
Argentite Mine
Valley County, Idaho

Gentlemen:

It will be advisable in order to make a proper examination relative to your OME application to look at some of the croppings of the structure you wish to explore.

If you will notify me when the snow is gone, I will arrange to visit the property as soon as possible thereafter.

Sincerely yours,

D. R. MacLaren
Field Officer, OME
Region I

MLSmelser/mls
cc: OME
Director's Reading File

MME Form 7
(2/63)

OFFICIAL FILE COPY

Date	Surname	Code
3/30/67	Peterson	120
3/31/67	Kirkham	120
		110
3/31	cal	220
		120M

APR 1 1967

AIRMAIL

Mr. Vernon B. Pratt
4362 Gulf Road
Ferndale, Washington 98248
and
Mr. William N. Pratt
Box 572
Kahlotus, Washington 99335

Re: OME-6609 (Silver)
Vernon B. and William N. Pratt
Argentite Claim
Valley County, Idaho

Gentlemen:

Your application for exploration assistance has been reviewed here in Washington and referred to Mr. D. R. MacLaren, Field Officer, Region I, Office of Minerals Exploration, U. S. Geological Survey, South 157 Howard Street, Spokane, Washington, 99204.

Please note that in the event of a contract the Government pays its share of the costs at the end of each month after a voucher for the costs incurred has been submitted and approved. It usually takes two or three weeks to process such a voucher. An applicant, therefore, should have sufficient funds available to pay for all the costs of the project for the first two or three months.

In addition, under an OME contract a fair rental charge per month is allowed for the use of mining equipment required on a project rather than allowances for the purchase of the equipment. If the equipment is owned by the operator, he is compensated by allowing depreciation to the extent of 1/60th of the fair market value of the equipment or its book value, whichever is less, for each month used.

Mr. MacLaren will notify you if additional information concerning the application is needed.

Sincerely yours,

FRANK E. JOHNSON

Frank E. Johnson
Chief, Office of
Minerals Exploration

cc: Director's Reading File
Division File
Economic Geology File
OME Docket
OME Reading File
OME Region I
Mr. Peterson

ECPeterson/gla 3-30-67

23263

MME Form 7
(2/63)

OFFICIAL FILE COPY

Date	Surname	Code
3/30/67	Peterson	120
3/31/67	Kirkham	120
		110
		220
		120M

AIRMAIL

MAR 31 1967

Memorandum

To: Field Officer, Region I

From: Chief, Office of Minerals Exploration

Subject: OME-6609 (Silver)
Vernon B. and William N. Pratt
Argentite Claim
Valley County, Idaho

We are referring the subject application to you for further consideration, a field examination if warranted, and recommendations.

If an examination is made and a contract recommended, the Applicants should be requested to furnish new bank correspondence. The bank replies submitted are not acceptable as it appears the exploration loans were denied chiefly because the project is located outside of the banks' lending area. For this reason, local banks in Cascade or Boise should be contacted. In lieu of bank letters, the Applicants may submit a financial statement.

FRANK E. JOHNSON

Frank E. Johnson

cc: Director's Reading File
Division File
Economic Geology File
OME Docket
OME Reading File
130
Mr. Peterson

ECPeterson/gla 3-30-67

23263

March 27, 1967

Mr. Vernon B. Pratt and
Mr. William N. Pratt
4562 Gulf Road
Ferndale, Washington 98248

Subject: OME-6609

Gentlemen:

Your application for exploration assistance, dated March 16, 1967, submitted to our office at Spokane, Washington, has been assigned Docket No. OME-6609.

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

Sincerely yours,

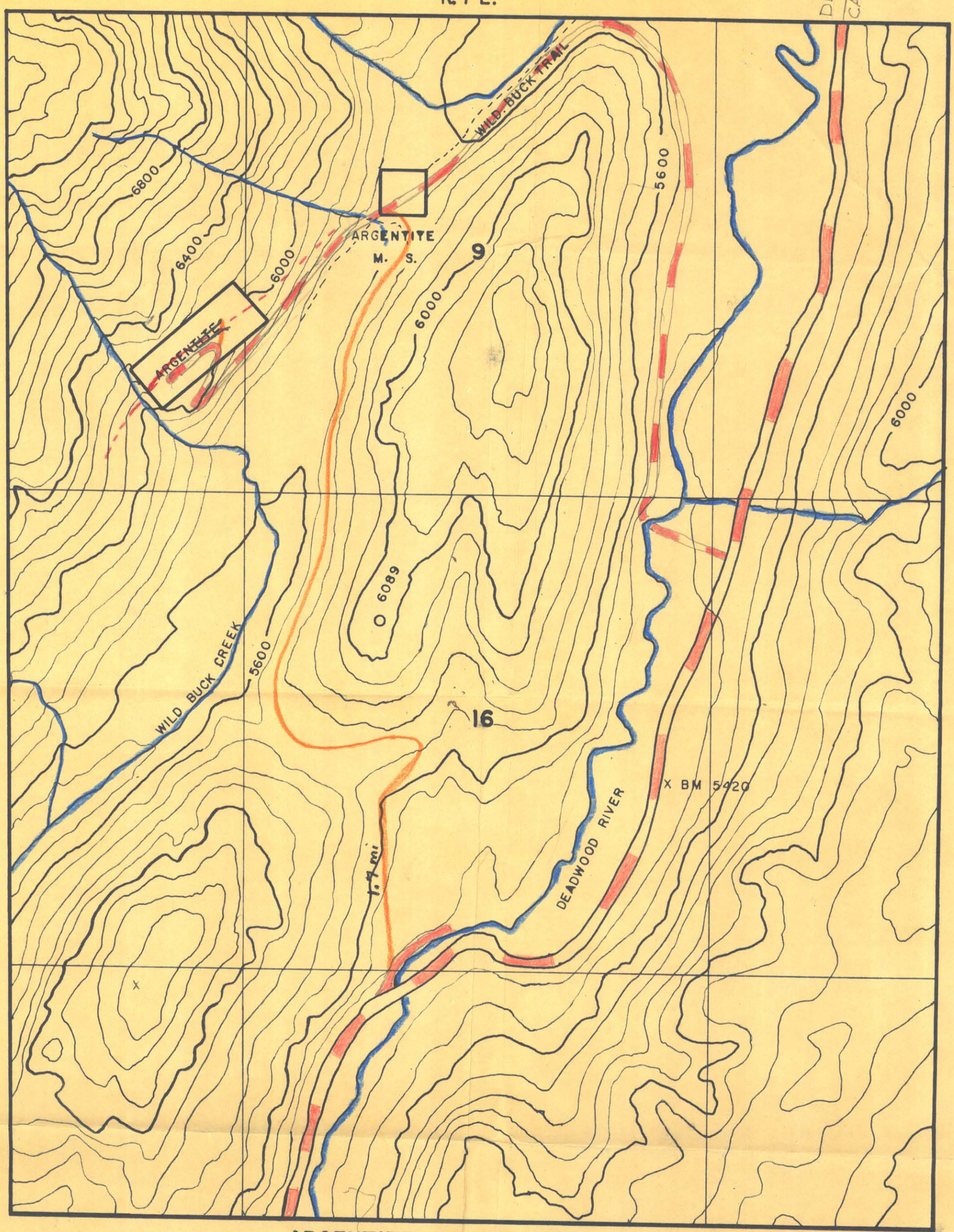
Frank E. Johnson
Chief, Office of
Minerals Exploration

Copy to Region I

ENLARGED FROM DEADWOOD RESERVOIR QUADRANGLE
IDAHO - VALLEY CO.

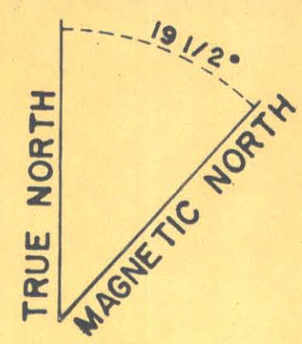
R. 7 E.

T. 12 N.



ARGENTITE PROSPECT AREA

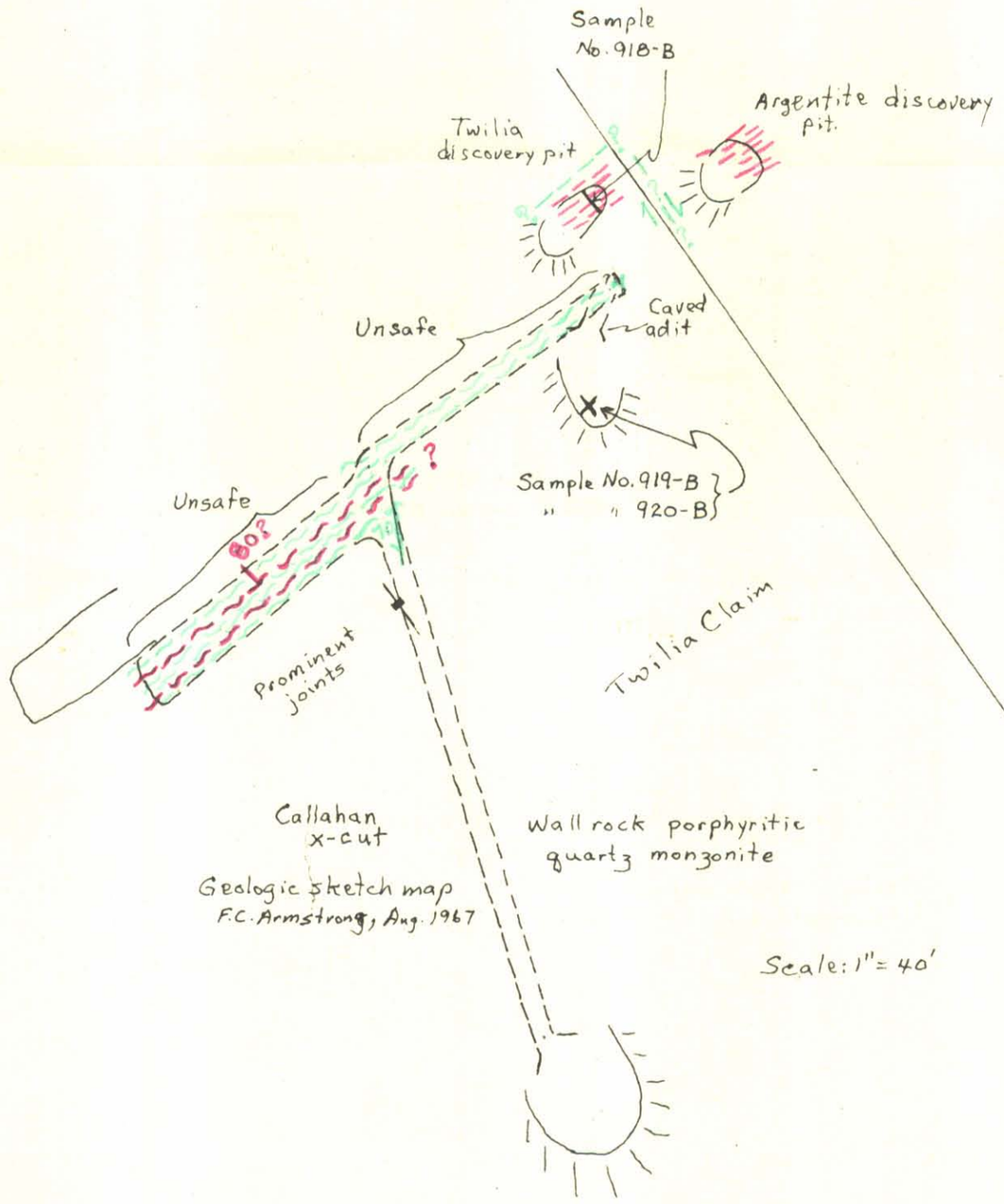
SCALE = 1" 1000'

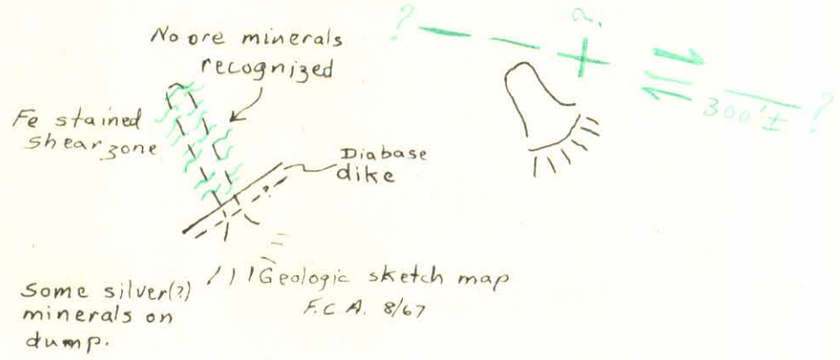


APPROXIMATE MEAN
DECLINATION 1953

EXISTING ROADS
PROPOSED ROAD
ARGENTITE VEIN
PROPOSED DRIFT

DRAWN BY JIM FRALICK
APPROVED BY V.B. Pratt





N

Argentite Claim

Figure 3

Argentite and Twilia claims
Locations by V. B. Pratt
Geologic notes and sketch map of
Callahan x-cut by F. C. Armstrong