UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OSCAR L. CHAPMAN, SECRETARY

DEFENSE MINERALS ADMINISTRATION

REPORT BY EXAMINATION TEAM
Region II

DMA-884 Commanche Manganese Prospect

Granite County, Montana

Ralph M. Thurston
Geologist
U. S. Geological Survey

John S. McNabb Jr.
Mining Engineer
U. S. Bureau of Mines

May 8, 1951

May 8, 1961

Preliminary Report

Commanche Manganese Prospect

By: Ralph H. Thurston
U. S. Geological Survey

John S. McNabb Jr.
U. S. Bureau of Mines

IMA Docket No. 668

Introduction

The Commanche Manganese Prospect is located in the northeastern part of the Philipsburg manganese producing area on the east slope of Hope Hill, in Township 7N, Range 15W, NE quarter of Section 19. The property has produced a small amount of manganese ores that were treated in local manganese reduction plants, and early in the camp's history produced a small tonnage of silver ore. As the mine lies considerably north of the area being examined by the Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines, it has not been mapped in detail, but has been visited briefly. As of the date of this report, the surface is still covered with snow, and it will be impossible to adequately report on the property until the snow melts. Certain factors regarding the property are known, however, and are discussed below.

Remarks and Recommendations

The field examining team discussed the proposal contained in Docket No. 6[illegible] with the applicant, Mr. James W. Young, particularly with regard to the matching fund basis on which the loan would be made, the type and grade of the ore he hopes to mine, and the availability of a market for his production. Following are the results of that discussion:

Mr. Young is unable to match funds with the Government on his proposal. He hopes, however, to interest one or more parties in his property, and presumes that they will provide the funds necessary.

Reliable information places the grade of Mr. Young's past ore shipments at approximately 40 percent manganese dioxide content. There is little chance that the applicant's work will reach the bottom of the oxide zone, and it is inferred that all of his ore will be manganese dioxide of a grade and character similar to the ore in the mine and to his past production. If so, the high silica content of the ore will be a very undesirable diluent.

As of the date of this report, only one manganese dioxide mill is operating in the Philipsburg District, the plant of the Groat Mining Division of the American Machine and Metals Company. Mr. L. B. Manning, Manager of that property, has informed the field team that he will not buy ore from the Commanche, because of the high silica content of the ore. The only other prospective purchaser is the Domestic Manganese plant in

Butte, Montana. The Domestic Manganese plant is scheduled to produce metallurgical grade manganese, and it therefore seems highly doubtful that they will buy Mr. Young's ore, again because of the high silica content. Attached to this report is a copy of a letter going forward to the Domestic Manganese plant regarding the allowable silica content in ores they purchase, and also covering the desirability of manganese dioxide ores as sources of metallurgical manganese.

The field team recommends that RMA Docket No. 665 be held up pending the applicant's ability to match funds, and the establishment of a guaranteed market for the ores from the Commanche Mine.

A following report based upon examination of the property will be submitted.

So. 157 Howard Street
Spokane 8, Washington

May 3, 1951

Mr. Max E. Crittenden, Jr.
U. S. Geological Survey
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Max:

In reply to the last part of your letter of April 27 referring to the complaint on James W. Young of Philipsburg, I happened to talk to Thurston this morning by phone and I mentioned this report in reference to the Comanche mine. Unfortunately, this was before I had received your letter. You know the mine; it is a small inclined shaft on the top of the hill in the Jefferson dolomite, and you and I visited it one time with Al Taylor. Thurston told me that the ore is manganese dioxide, which is so high in silica that no one in Philipsburg will buy it. He is attempting to find out whether John Cole at Butte could handle it. Thurston apparently feels that there are some exploration ~~projects~~ possibilities which cannot be ruled out without an examination though I do not think he thinks too highly of the property. This will require a look at the surface, which has been covered with snow. They were going to look at it this week, but unfortunately there was another heavy snow in Philipsburg in the last two or three days and it will be another week before the surface can be seen at least. Undoubtedly Thurston was trying to tell Mr. Young that his chances of getting a loan on the Comanche were not very good but that the property might be considered for an exploration contract. Unfortunately, such advice is not always welcome and all too frequently we have had people make the same complaint to us, "if I could match dollars, I wouldn't need a loan."

In any event we will try to get a report on the Comanche to you as soon as we possibly can. It is not a big job and should not take very long once we can get to see the surface.

Sincerely yours,

A. E. Weissenborn
Executive Officer, DMA
Field Team, Region II

AEW/bh
cc: R.H. Thurston

DMA 666

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

March 19, 1951

Mr. A. E. Weissenborn
U. S. Geological Survey
South 157 Howard Street
Spokane, Washington

Through: Director, Supply Division

Dear Mr. Weissenborn:

Attached find DMA-666, a request for a loan of $28,000 in connection with the Comanche manganese property, in the Philipsburg district, Montana. It is requested that the opinion of the Geological Survey field representative already in Philipsburg be obtained as to the potentialities of this prospect, and as to the way it may fit into the Survey-Bureau-DMA program for development of that district.

Very truly yours,

P. R. Bradley

P. R. Bradley, Jr.
Chief, Manganese Branch

Approved:

Tom Lyon

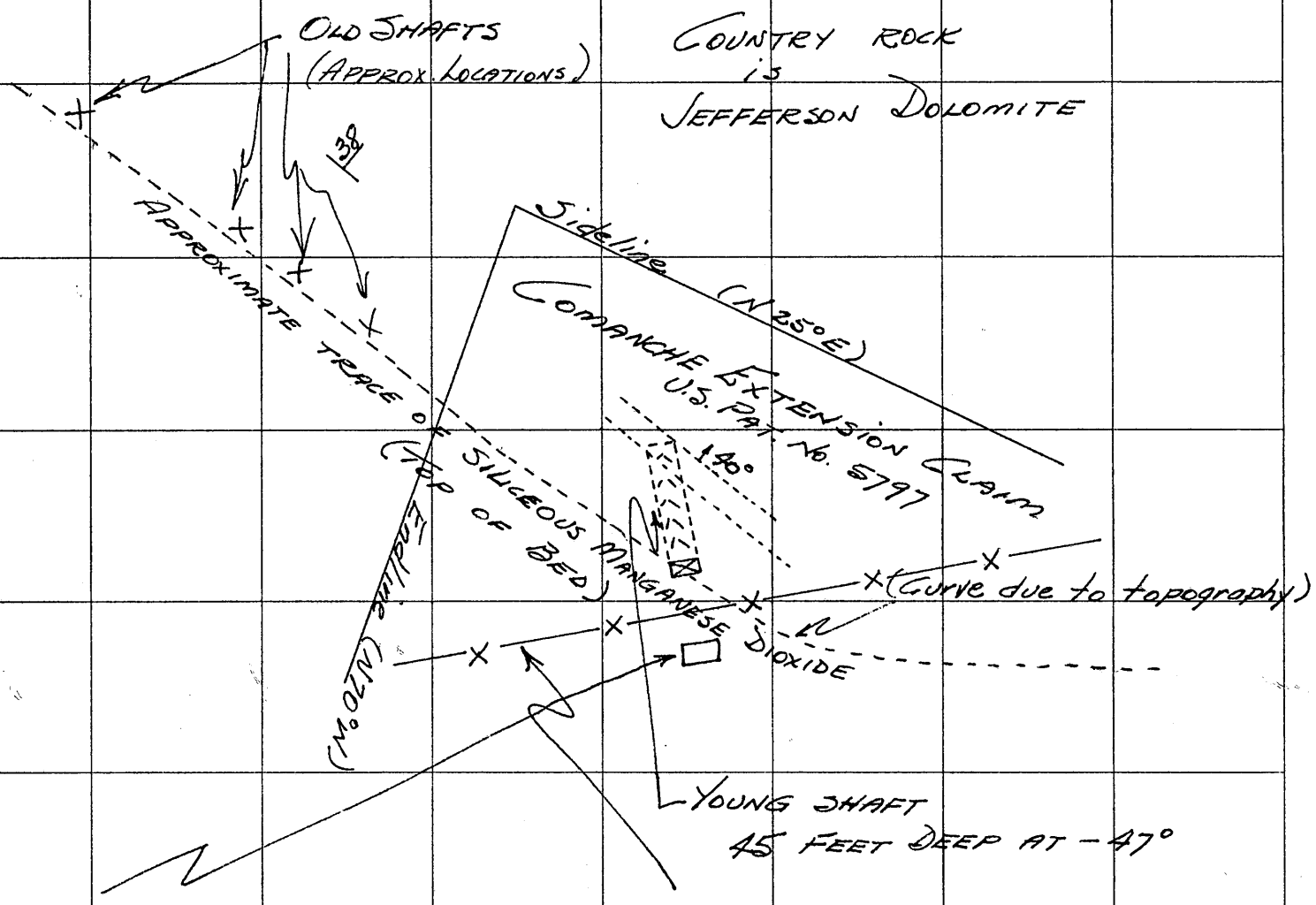
Acting Chairman, Operating Committee

Lowell B. Moon

Lowell Moon

Olaf N. Rove

Olaf N. Rove



APPROXIMATE POSITION OF YOUNG'S OREBIN. IF BIN IS ON PATTEN GROUND, THE SIDELINE OF THE COMANCHE EXTENSION CLAIM MUST LIE BETWEEN SHAFT AND OREBIN. HENCE THE TRUE SHAPE OF THE CLAIM MUST BE TRIANGULAR, NOT RECTANGULAR.

POSSIBLE SIDELINE (DEPENDING UPON POSSIBLE EXCLUSION TO PRIOR LOCATION.)

MAP OF PART OF THE COMANCHE MANGANESE PROSPECT

RALPH H. THURSTON, U.S.G.S.

JOHN S. McNABB, JR. U.S.B.M.

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