Docket

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF MINERALS EXPLORATION
So. 157 Howard Street
Spokane, Washington 99204
May 25, 1964

Memorandum

To: Chief, Division of Field Operations

From: Acting Field Officer, Region I

Subject: Application examination
OME-6336 (Cinnabar)
Joseph T. Murray
Flora Belle Mine
Jackson County, Oregon

INTRODUCTION

The Flora Belle mine was visited April 23, 1964, in the company of J. W. Chisholm, whom the applicant designated as a guide. Although only about 3 hours were spent on this property, an additional 1½ days were spent on adjacent claims subject to another application (OME-6355).

The applicant proposes to explore by bulldozing 6 trenches, each about 50 feet long, to an average depth of 6 feet to determine the location, width, and continuity of a "vein" exposed in what is said to be the only trench on the claim. He also proposes to drive a crosscut approximately 75 feet long to cut the vein which will be followed for 100 feet by a drift.

According to a compass and tape survey from the center post on the south end line of the Flora Belle claim, the portal of the only tunnel on the property is less than 50 feet from the east boundary. A line of blazed trees, said to be along the east boundary, passes within 15 feet of the portal (pl. 1).

It is concluded that the chance of making a significant discovery is probably less than fair and it is recommended that the application be denied.

PROPERTY, LOCATION, AND ACCESSIBILITY

The applicant owns one unpatented mining claim the Flora Belle which is recorded at the Jackson County Courthouse in Book 60, page 280.

See Plate 1
in folder

Located in sec. 17, T. 34 S., R. 2 W. Willamette meridian, in the Meadows district, Jackson County, Oregon, the claim is easily accessible from Medford, Oregon, about 22 miles distant. Except for the last mile or so which is over a poor dirt road, slick and probably impassible when wet, the road from Medford is passible throughout the year. A road log from Medford to the cabin of J. W. Chisholm is given in an application examination report for OME-6355 and need not be repeated here. The Flora Belle claim is about 1 mile beyond Chisholm's cabin.

There are several small hand-dug pits on the property, but they were excavated a long time ago and are now filled by debris and overgrown by grass and bushes. The only clean workings are a small trench which reaches a maximum depth of about 6 feet and a tunnel about 240 feet long. These workings were visited and tied to the center post on the south end line of the claim by a compass and tape survey.

GEOLOGY

The geologic setting is described by:

Wells, Frances G., and Waters, Aaron C., 1934, Quicksilver deposits of southwestern Oregon: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 850, p. 50-56

Brooks, Howard C., 1963, Quicksilver in Oregon: State of Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries Bull. 55, p. 67-74

A summary, mostly taken from Brooks (1963) is given in OME-6355, application examination report, which will be condensed here.

The oldest rocks are schistose amphibolites with subordinate biotite schists and quartzites that make up the Applegate group of Triassic(?) age. These rocks are unconformable overlain by arkosic sandstones, partly tuffaceous and partly conglomeratic, interbedded with shales and lignitic coal that comprise the Umpqua formation of Eocene age. Locally, these beds are intruded by small diabase, pegmatite, and diorite dikes.

Planes of schistosity in the Applegate group vary widely in strike, but as a whole they strike N. 20°-60° E. and dip SE. at angles in excess of 30°. The sedimentary rocks also have a wide range of strikes, but the dips rarely exceed 15° in any direction.

In the area quicksilver deposits are associated most commonly with subordinate faults of divergent trends on either side of the contact, but no appreciable amount of quicksilver has been found along the contact.

The only open trench on the claim exposes a shear zone in sandstone that strikes N. 30° E. and dips 78° SE. No cinnabar was observed and a sample of the shear zone assayed only Tr. mercury over a width of 2 feet (pl. 1).

The only tunnel is driven 68 feet westerly, then was turned southwesterly and driven 150 feet, turned westerly again and driven 22 feet. About 20 feet north of the last turn a crosscut driven easterly was caved at 10 feet. The first westerly section of the tunnel cut a heavy gouge seam that has caved considerably. Presumably, the tunnel was turned to parallel the gouge, but leaves it entirely about 35 feet from the turn. About 90 feet from the turn a short crosscut westerly, less than 10 feet long was stopped when it exposed the hanging-wall side of the gouge. The last crosscut westerly exposed a little gouge near the bottom of the face and shearing parallel to the gouge was exposed in the sandstone walls. No mercury minerals were observed and as there was about 2 feet of water in the crosscut, no attempt was made to sample the shear zone.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

It is possible that the shear zone sampled in the trench is the same as that observed along the hanging wall of the gouge in the tunnel. The two are about parallel in strike and the slightly steeper dip at the surface could be the result of surface creep. However, at neither place was cinnabar observed and a sample from the trench contained only a trace mercury. Reportedly, mercury colors can be panned almost anywhere on this and adjacent claims so that a trace does not signify much.

The closest known mercury deposit is on the Quinault claim adjacent to the Flora Belle claim. Recorded production from that deposit totaled only 29 flasks in 9 years. (See examination report, OME-6355.) The gouge-shear zone appears to be a fairly strong structure and possibly trenching across it might disclose better mercury mineralization; also, the structure appears to project very close to the mined area on the Quinault claim. However, in order to avoid exploration within 100 feet of an exterior boundary, there is only about 130 feet of ground eligible for trenching southerly toward the Quinault ore. Northerly, there is about 300 feet that could be trenched until the tunnel level would be reached. Any encouraging results found by trenching should be further explored from the existing tunnel, the portal of which is only about 60 feet from an exterior boundary.

It is concluded that the chance of making a significant discovery within the limited area is less than fair and it is recommended that the application be denied.

D. R. MacLaren

Enclosure

Distribution:
OME(3)
USGS(SRO)
Docket
MacLaren

1. Financial Eligibility
(a) Statements from 2 banks are attached at end of the foregoing papers.
(b) No affiliations, I am sole owner.
(c) I intend, if a cntract is granted, to furnish my share of the work financially from wages earned on the project and from private sources.
2. Applicant's Rights in Land
(a) I am sole owner of the Flora Belle claim, no encumbrances.
(b) The Flora Belle claim is located in the Meadows mining district, on East Evan's Creek, Jackson County, Oregon in Sec. 17 T 34 Range 2 W of Willamette Meridian. It joins the North End line of the Quinault claim, which is the South End line of the Flora Belle. It is grouped with claims on all sides formerly owned by the late Dr. Chisholm, now under separate ownership, but still well known as the Old Chisholm Mine (Quicksilver). Recorded at Jackson Co. Court House, Dept. of Records, Medford, Oregon. Vol. 60 p280 loc June 21, 54 Amend. Vol59 p433.
3. Physical Description.
(a) It is located on the North slope of a steep ridge (Quail Ridge) and is well timbered and has a spring near West sideline with abundant water. The formation is predominately sandstone with a footwall contact of quartzite. Some kaolin clay is contained within the cinnabar dyke. The main workings consist of a tunnel with portal near East sideline, 385ft in length running to the South and West. No ore strike has been made yet but is headed for orebodies of cinnabar which show on the surface. A large cut has been made 250ft above tunnel to the South which shows a four foot vein of a porpus sandstone mixed with clayey ochre which shows some cinnabar that can be seen and pans well. More work needs to be done to determine the extent of the vein. The main tunnel was too far to the right(West) to hit the vein as shown on the attached map. There are no production facilities as yet although I have permission to use retorts located on the New Hope claim farther to the North owned by Frank Fink (shown on map).
(b) I hired men to open the tunnel mentioned above which was run in 1889 and had been caved since 1930 with the intention of finally continuing the drift when and if I was financially able to do so. I own all workings on property.
(c) I have made no production of mercury since my ownership and it is not known if any mercury was produced by former owners although the nearby claim Little Jean claim, now known as the Quinault has had production over the years and still produces some mercury.
(d) No known ore reserves. Needs development. Assay sheet attached.
(e) The attached engineer's report of Chisholm Mine fully describes the geologic features and other pertinent data. It has been decided recently that the vein showing on the Flora Belle is or rather probably is, the same vein showing on the New Hope claim farther ot the North. The New Hope vein has produced some mercury and with the recent work done there shows very good ore. This vein has exactly the same strike (N 10 E) and the same dip (56 E)
(f) Taking into consideration the ore opened on other claims in the area and the similarity of the Flora Belle vein and the New Hope vein which has faulted and new ore discovered recently at fault plane, the chances are good that an important ore body could be also discovered on the Flora Belle. The claim is near the center of the cinnabar dyke surveyed several years ago by the U.S. Geologic Survey for a distance of six miles North and South of this area. On this dyke lie the Mountain King Mine to the South, the Chisholm Mine this area, the productive Cinnabar Mountain Mine (formerly) and joining this area the la rgest producer, The War Eagle Mine. Two samples have been taken at old cut mentioned above with careful catching of the picked down material in clean pan. Five lb. samples were taken across 5 feet of vein.
(g) Two copies of engineer report attached, also maps sketches, assays. No return of data will be necessary.

4. Accessibility of Property:
(a) The nearest town from mine is Gold Hill, Oregon, 20 miles distant. The road from Gold Hill is known as the Sam's Valley highway and is surfaced with blacktop and in excellent condition. The district in which the mine is situated is known as the Meadows on the East Fork of Evan's Creek. After crossing the bridge (concrete) across the creek, take the first right hand turn which is only a short distance from bridge, at the turn a sign reads East Evan's Creek. At the second ranch house from turn a road turns sharply to the left which is the mine road unsurfaced but in good condition furing summer and passable during winter. From the County road a distance of ½ mile will be found 2 cabins close together. The one to the East covered with tarpaper is the residence of James W. Chisholm who will show the OME representative the Flora Belle. Mr. Chisholm is well acquainted with the property and can show where workings are and where the vein shows, also boundaries of claim etc. Mail address of Mr. Chisholm is Rt. 1 Box 130A, Rogue River, Oregon. He resides at the mine all year round.
(b) Gold Hill is on the S.P. Railroad and Highway 99, a small town of only 600 pop. Medford is 22 miles distant and an excellent trading center, the road in from mine is paved all the way. It is also on 99 and the S.P.R.
5. Exploration Work:
It is proposed that some surface prospecting be done by bulldozer on both the North and South sides of the large open cut where vein is exposed and cinnabar is showing. The overburden is only about 2 to 3 feet in depth in most places and trenches of about 6 feet in depth and 50 feet in length will be sufficient to show true formation and deep enough for efficient sampling.
6. Trenches of that size should open ground to show extent of vein and distance to drift using main tunnel below. It is also proposed that a drift be run, starting approx. 120 feet from portal of main tunnel, on a course of South and West for a probable distance of 75 feet to intersect the vein and then drift thereon a distance of 100 feet. The attached map will show the proposed work. The tunnel or drift opening should be at least 6 feet 4 in. in the clear as to ceiling or roof, whether in rock without timbering or rock with timbering. The width at floor should be no less than 5 feet and at roof no less than 4 feet 8 in. The grade should be even and only enough to facilitate easy tramming with standard ore car.
(b) The mine road is in fair shape but should have surface rock on it to be in good shape for winter use. It also needs some smoothing of ruts and chuck holes with tractor dozer blade. A bulldozer is available at claim close by that can be used at a reasonable rate. A dump truck can be rented at very reasonable rate at Grants Pass, Ore. It is proposed to use old dump rock, close by, for this surfacing. The rock can be had free of charge.
(c) If an OME contract is executed, the work can be started immediately, the road work and trenching by bulldozer work first as the tools and machinery are available as of now. The drifting as soon as compressor and drills plus car and track can be moved to the ground. 4 days should be allowed for each trench or a total of 24 days of bulldozing. Shifts of 8 hrs. daily. The 175 feet of drifting should be finished in a period of at least 35 working days of 8 hr. shifts, but to allow for unforseen mishaps or necessary repairs, perhaps 2 months from day ground is broken. A 5 day week is planned. In addition to the above described work there is a caved in portion of the tunnel that will require one man 4 days of mucking and 3 additional days of timbering. This has been in the same condition for several years, caused by a coal seam. The muck and cave is on one sideonly and roof, A distance of 10 feet up and slope of 50 degrees. The tunnel is open to the face. On the left side themuck can be easily walked over.

6. Experience:

My background and experience is listed on a paper attached to the end of this application form as also one showing the background and experience of James W. Chisholm the man I intend to have take charge of the complete exploration project if a contract is granted. If outside advice is needed Gordon I Gould & Co. of San Francisco will be the consulting engineer. This Company has had vast experience in mercury mining, Mercury Rotary furnaces. Mr. Gould has been here on the ground and knows the mine and this cinnabar area.

7. Estimate of Costs:

(a) Independent contracts - None.

(b) Personal Services:

Supervision, engineering and geologic services: James W. Chisholm is entirely capable. He would also handle the accounting necessary.

Salary for above described services	$600.00 per mo.
Outside Consultant, probable not needed, if so a flat fee	150.00 per 1 da.
Miners at $3.00 per hr. 2 needed	24.00 per day ea.
Laborer at $2.50 per hr. 1 needed	20.00 per day
Mechanic and gen. repair man also cut timbers $3.25 hr.	26.00 per day
Bulldozer Man cost includes tractor plus operator $10.00 hr.	80.00 per day
Dump truck driver cost includes dump truck $6.00 per hr.	48.00 per day
Tractor man for road work. Same man on loader $10.00 hr.	80.00 per day

Supervisor & bookkeeper (Chisholm), Mechanic & repairman, (Murray) miners will be needed for the life of the project, a predicted 2 months. The one laborer a possible total of 40 days. One bulldozer man a possible month. The road men, one tractor man who will also handle loader at rock dump and driver with dump truck a possible 4 days.

All classes of employees listed above are immediately available if and when an OME contract is granted.

(c) Operating Material and supplies:

There are no mining tool of any kind at the Flora Belle. All work has been contracted for and the contractor has furnished the tools.

Tools needed:

Picks @ $4.35 each		3	$13.05
Shovels (spring)	@ $7.25	3	21.75
Hammers 3½ lb	@ 3.60	1	3.60
Hammers 6 lb	@ 4.95	1	4.95
Jackhammer bits	@ .50	24	12.00
Carbide bits	@ 16.00	2	32.00
Bit puller	@ 3.95	1	3.95
Misc. tools probable needed as work proceeds			100.00

Nails for timering 10 to 30 com @ 14.30 per keg 1430 total $205.60

(d) Operating Equipment:

It is intended to rent all necessary machinery for mining with the exceptior of car and track, power saw. A blacksmith shop on a nearby claim can be used without charge. The bulldozer, loader, and truck for road work to be furnish ed by the operators.

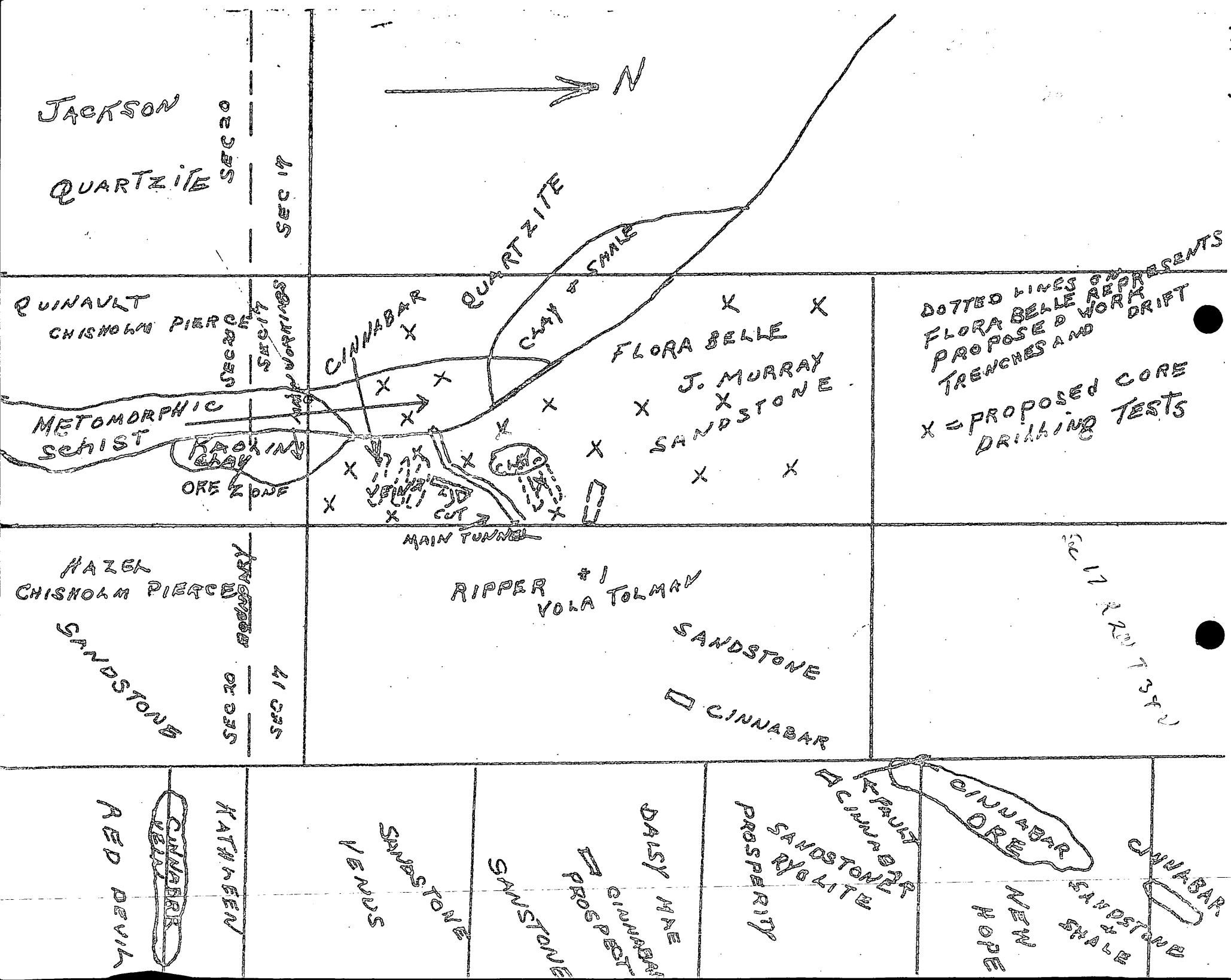
Compressor portable 1.5 cu. ft. @ $10.00 per day, for complete job	$400.00
Jackhammer, air leg, drill steel (no bits) @ $4.00 per day	160.00
Air pipe with fittings, hose etc. for complete job (40 days)	75.00

(e) Initial rehabilitation and repairs:

None

(f) New buildings, fixtures, installations.

One closed shed with enclosed sides and rear using 2nd grade lumber for housing compressor and use as tool shed. Complete cost incl labor $520.00.


N
JACKSON
QUARTZITE
SEC 20
SEC 17
QUARTZITE
CHAY & SHALE
QUINAULT
CHISHOLM PIERCE
SEC 29
SEC 17
MAP WORKINGS
CINNABAR
FLORA BELLE
J. MURRAY
SANDSTONE
METOMORPHIC
SCHIST
KAOLIN
CLAY
ORE ZONE
VEIN
CUT
MAIN TUNNEL
DOTTED LINES ON REPRESENTS
FLORA BELLE REPRESENTS
PROPOSED WORK
TRENCHES AND DRIFT
X = PROPOSED CORE
DRILLING TESTS
HAZEL
CHISHOLM PIERCE
SANDSTONE
BOUNDARY
SEC 20
SEC 17
RIPPER #1
VOLA TOLMAN
SANDSTONE
CINNABAR
SEC 17
RANGE 3 E
RED DEVIL
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VEIN
KATHLEEN
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VENUS
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PROSPECT
DAISY MAE
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PROSPERITY
QUINAULT
CINNABAR
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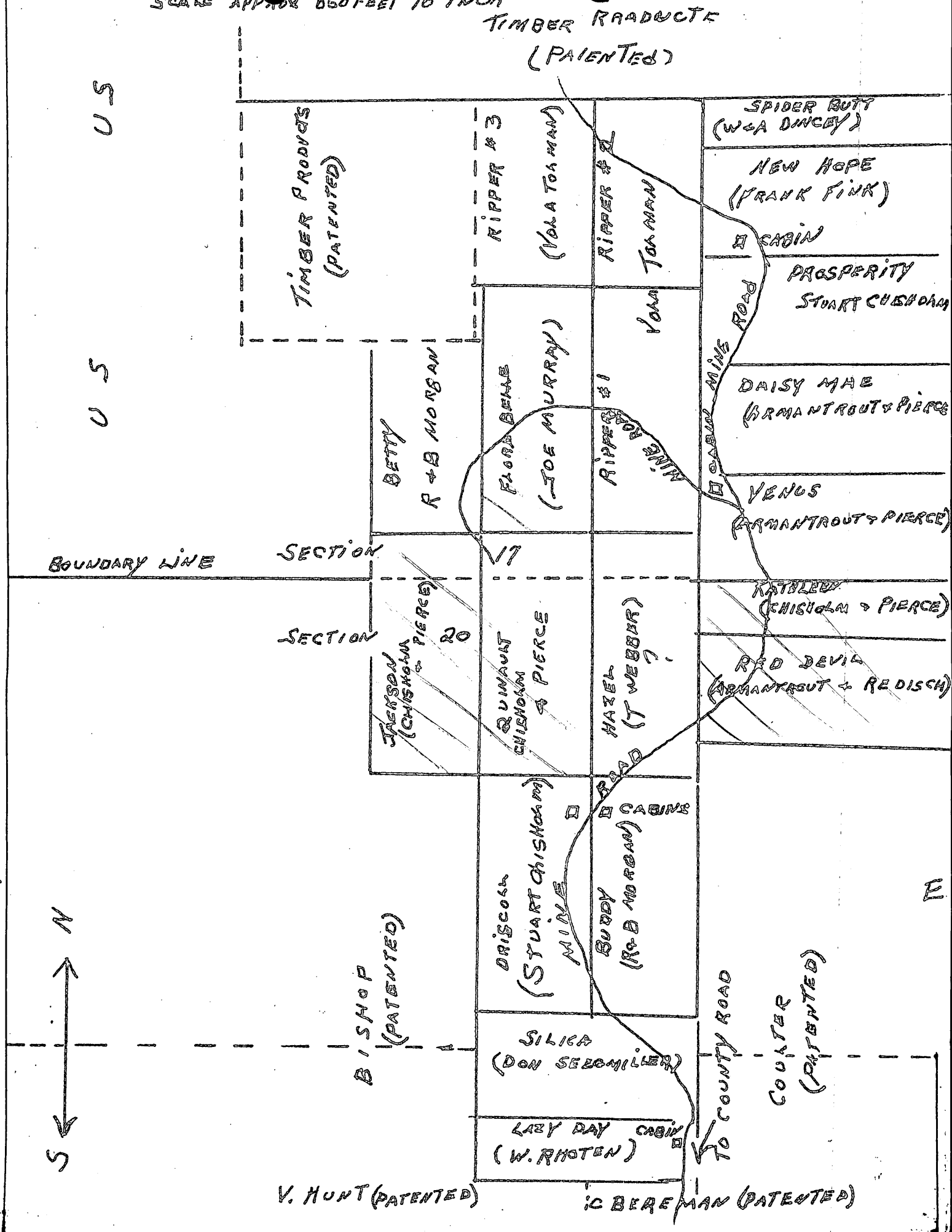
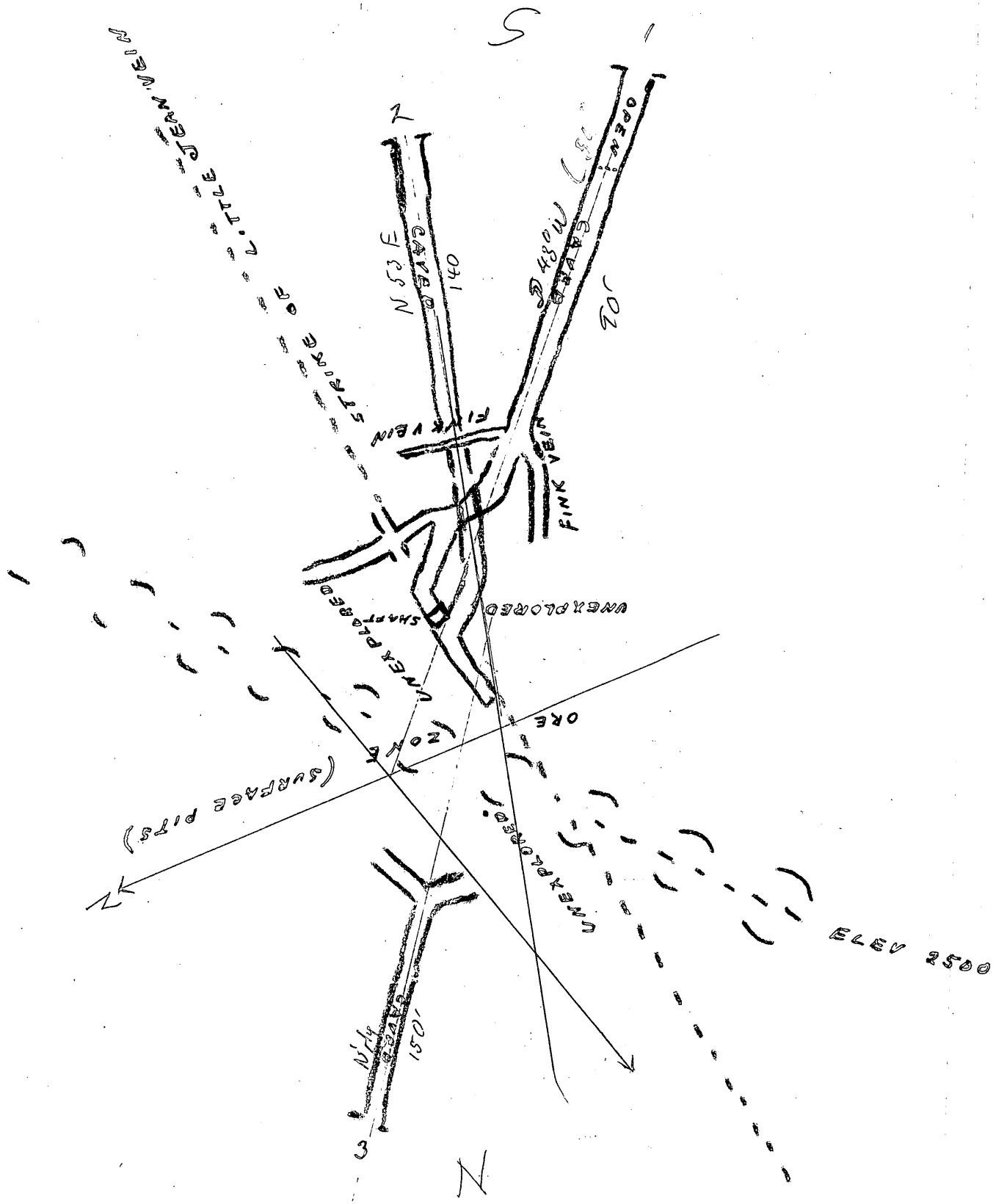
SHOWING: S½ SEC 17 AND N½ SEC 20 T34S R2WWW
SCALE APPROX 660 FEET TO INCH





OLD WORKINGS LITTLE JEAN CLAIM (NOW QUINAULT)
ALL CAVED EXCEPT 100 FT NORTH SIDE ADIT, 20 FT SHAFT AND
SURFACE PITS, BULLDOZED TRENCHES
VISIBLE CINNABAR SHOWING NEW PITS, TRENCHES
PROPOSED WORK! BULLDOZE TOPOFRIDGE, ALL OLD WORKINGS TO 60' DEPTH