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Item 11 #

134

Mercury - 16

**Carroll O. R. Adberry & Associates**ENGINEERS • CONSULTANTS  
LOS ALTOS • CALIFORNIA

INCORPORATED

BY: CCM

W.O.:

885.1

MINERAL:

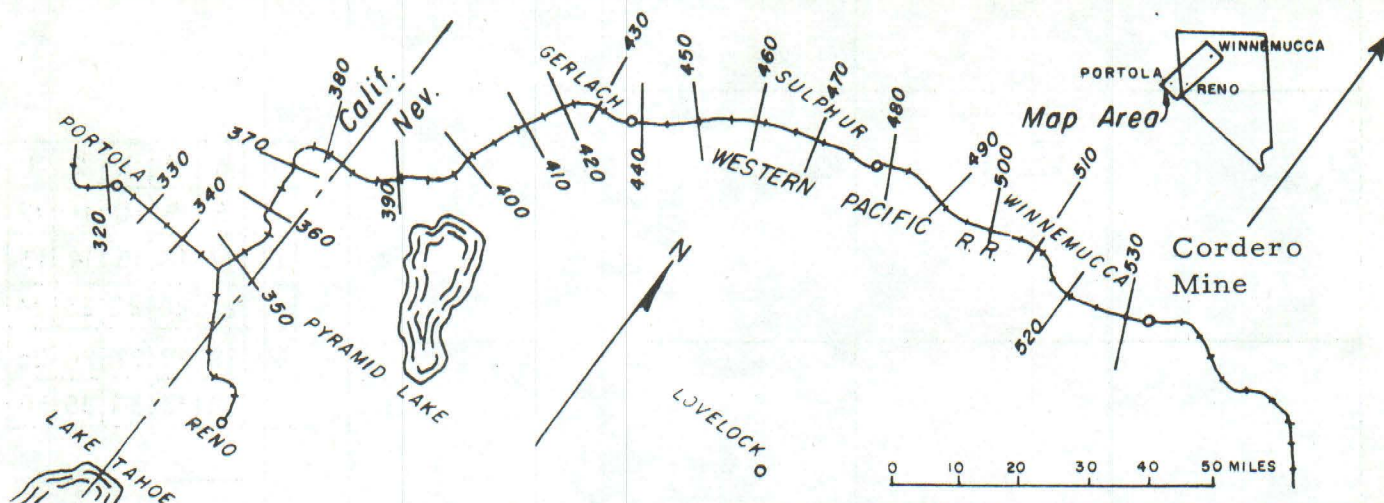
Mercury

DATE: 7-29-64

MINERAL DEPOSIT ALONG WESTERN PACIFIC RAILROAD  
**PORTOLA TO WINNEMUCCA**

PROPERTY NAME:

Cordero Mine

**LOCATION:** Humboldt County, Nevada

1/4 OF 1/4 OF SEC 33 &amp; 34 TWP 47N RGE 42E

**DISTRICT:** Cordero**MILEPOST:****POTENTIAL:**☐ LARGE☐ IMMEDIATE☐ MEDIUM☐ NEAR FUTURE☐ SMALL☐ DISTANT FUTURE☐ UNKNOWN

**DESCRIPTION:** Began production in 1941 and except for a 10-month period in 1950 and 1951, the mine has consistently been one of the leading quicksilver producers of the country. Country rocks comprise a thick, heterogeneous section of Tertiary volcanics, but because of the thick alluvial mantle their sequence has not been worked out in detail. The younger volcanic rocks exposed in the workings are glassy tuffs and (over)

**RESERVES:** Exploration drilling is not very far in advance of mining due to uncertainty about the future price for mercury but reserves blocked out are adequate for continued operation for some considerable time. Production is about 3,600 to 4,000 flasks per year and 89,489 flasks from 1953 to 1963.

**ACCESS:** 11 miles north and west from McDermitt then 74 miles south to Winnemucca via U. S. Highway 95.

**OWNERSHIP:** Cordero Mining Company (a wholly owned subsidiary of Sun Oil Company), 131 University Avenue, Palo Alto, California (numerous unpatented claims)

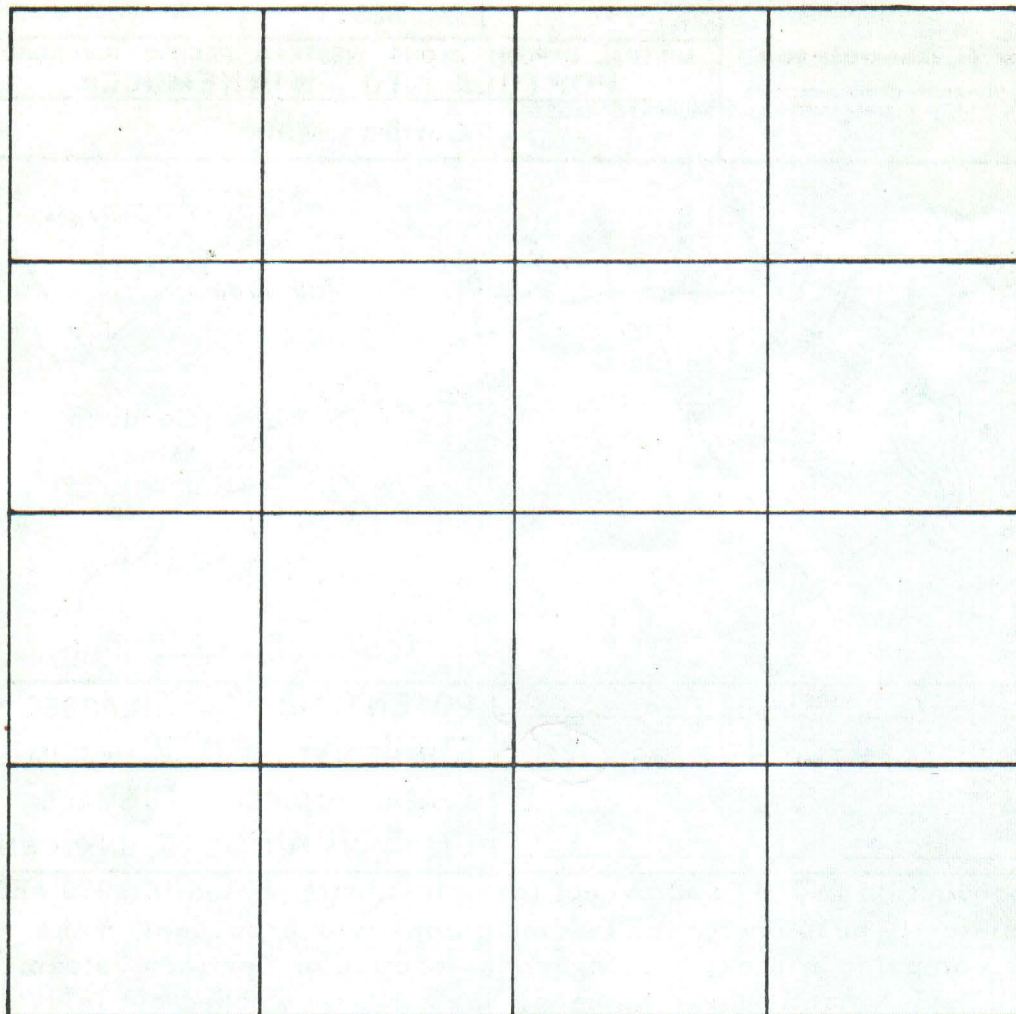
**SOURCES OF DATA:** (Willden 1964) Geology of Humboldt County, Nevada Bureau of mines

**ECONOMICS:** Price of mercury has increased 60% (\$177 to \$284/flask) in the last 9 months but has a history of instability. Note: Price in December 1964 was \$505.00 per flask

**CONCLUSIONS:** Most mercury shipped by truck

THE WESTERN PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY





6	5	4	3	2	1
7	8	9	10	11	12
18	17	16	15	14	13
19	20	21	22	23	24
30	29	28	27	26	25
31	32	33	34	35	36

T \_\_\_\_\_ R \_\_\_\_\_

SECTION \_\_\_\_\_

SCALE: 1" = 1000'

Description (Continued) flows, whereas the older rocks are mostly felsite agglomerate with a few layered rhyolite flows. These volcanics strike northeasterly and are inclined from  $20^{\circ}$  to  $60^{\circ}$  to the northwest. They are unconformably overlain by post-mineral Pleistocene alluvium, recent alluvium and slope wash. The only outcrops in the area are knobs of opalite formed from the more acid of the volcanic rocks lying near the top of the exposed sequence. The opalite is most abundant along and above the ore-bearing zones and dies out laterally and in depth. Locally it contains enough cinnabar to be mineable ore. For the most part the cinnabar occurs as disseminated crystals in altered volcanic rocks or in opalite, but a small amount is found as veinlets or solid masses. The associated minerals are quartz, chalcedony, opal, pyrite, hematite, and other iron oxides, jarosite, alunite, and clays. Fluorite and heulandite have been found in some of the more altered rocks.

The ore occurs (1) as small high-grade bodies in or below fault zones, and below opalite masses, (2) large ore bodies containing disseminated cinnabar in altered volcanic rocks, and (3) large but low-grade bodies in opalite.

Apparently the opalite was formed first by silicification of country rock and acted as a cap rock for rising quicksilver solutions.