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MACKAY SCHOOL OF MINES
RENO, NEVADA

August 15, 1935

MINING LOG OF NORTHERN NEVADA TRIP,

OF

Jay A. Carpenter, Mining Engineer, and Wm. I. Smyth, Metallurgist,

Aug. 2-12 Incl., 1935

By

Jay A. Carpenter, E.M.

August 12. Barite Mine at Argenta, a railroad station 12 miles east of Battle Mountain.

This immense deposit of gray barite was opened up last year by engineer E. L. Ralston, for the Chemical and Pigment Co. of Oakland. In '34, with a $\frac{1}{2}$ yd. gas shovel, he excavated a 2 mile 10% grade winding mountain road, for \$2500, opened the quarry, and shipped 3000 tons. He is back this season shipping over 100 tons a day for a "5000 ton stock pile" at the Oakland plant/

It is blasted by means of an I. R. portable compressor, jackhammers using jack-bits, and 40% dynamite. Some sorting is done ahead of the shovel, giving an "85% to 90%" barium sulphate product.

It is an amazing deposit in its surface extent, and its mode of geological occurrence is still a guess with no good surface workings to define its limits or contacts. However, this "belt" of barite is known thru locations to extend many miles along the flank of the range.

Drilling is done by dry machines that must spend as much time blowing the hole as in actual cutting to prevent the heavy cuttings binding the bits. With 2 ft. changes, one jack bit will drill in 16 holes, or 32 ft.

The hauling is by Ford $1\frac{1}{2}$ ton V-8 trucks carrying 5 to 6 tons per load, making the round trip in 1 hr.

Mr. Ralston is a hustling keen manager and gives his costs as: mining, 50¢, hauling 60¢, freight \$3.25, royalty, \$1.00.