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THE ASHDOWN MINE And Vieksburg Prospect

Personal - Copy.

AN APPRAISAL

David LeCount Evans

June 1968

THE ASHDOWN MINE And Vicksburg Prospect

Warm Springs District Humboldt County, Nevada

AN APPRAISAL

INTRODUCTION:

Examined at the request of Mr. Lenord Dahle of Westfall, Oregon, eight days were spent, completing surface and underground studies. Five days have been needed to assemble field observations, evaluate details and complete this analysis.

Eight plats accompany the written text. Study of these plan maps and cross sections is urged.

FOREWORD:

On the basis of material, submitted by Delfont Manarals, Imcorporated, operators of the property to February 16, 1968, it has been claimed (as recentley as April 1968) that ore reserves amount to 12,000,000 tons. June 1967 estimates of 4,000,000 tons considered 2,000,000 tons to have open-pit mining possibilities.

Present management inherited, not only, the above reasoning, but also, values per ton which, from an underground mining standpoint, would, obviously, not be "ore" because of low tenor.

An initial plan, started but in abeyance, to drive 3000 additional feet of development crosscut has been the cause of additional concern.

Consequently, a review of the entire geological and ecohomic picture appeared mamiatory. Such explains the effort, represented by recent field work and this analysis.

COMCLUSIONS:

It is concluded that:

- 1- the various white-quarts, flatly dipping vein structures are without economic possability;
- 2- reserves represent tonnages of mineralized material and are not "ore"; furthermore, a precise engineering basis for tonnages reported does not exist;
- a 300 foot wide trend of alteration and brecciated quarts, traceable for 3000 feet in the Vicksburg area, despite size, is without value.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Continued interest in the property is not recommended.

PROCEEDURES:

With reference to Plat B:

1- Topography is Brunton compass-tape controlled, with field surveys checked and adjusted to earlier transit work, made available to the writer. Writer's elevations have been established, from an initial estimated elevation on the 15 minute, USGS topographic sheet for the area, and thence by using the Brunton grade scale and measured distances, for all points.

2- Field observations were *pin-pointed* by Brunton intersections. except for the Vicksburg trend (shown in yellowochre). The V.T. was followed by taped survey for its entire 3000 feet.

3- The underground observations of Plat E are tied to a taped-Brunton survey.

4- References to history and production represent material, culled from several Nevada Bureau of Mines publications.

LOCATION: (see Plat A)

The property is located in the Warm Springs Mining District, 12 miles south of Denio, Mumboldt County, Nevada, Specifically, claims are in section 13, Township 45 Morth, Range 28 East; and probably, in section 18, Township 45 North, Range 29 East, Distance from Winnemucca is 108 miles.

GENERAL AND LIMITING CONDITIONS:

Access: is excellent; except for 3 miles of good desert road at entrance to property, all roads are paved.

Power: A power line serves the property.

Water: Springs above the property provide potable water to camp, through 12 miles of water line. Wells drilled in the desert valley to the west should assure water for a large milling prog-

Timber: The area is without timber.

Humboldt County can still provide skilled mining labor. Wage scales, still escalating, are unpredictable. Rule of thumb suggests that a miner, with wages and fringe benefits,

must be considered at about \$35 per day.

Taxes: Not considered at this time.

Mill Sites: Ideal mill sites and tailings disposal areas

feature the area.

Climate: The district is dry and aride with a seven inch total an exceptional year, Elevations are from

4400 to 5200 feet, assuring open winters and

year-around surface activity.

Terrain: Slopes are gentle and offer no problems.

LEGAL TITLE:

Twenty standard mining claims and fractions c mprise the block, leased, originally, by lessors Mrs. C. Mathewson of Denio and Vernon Cannon to Painted Hills, a mercury development company; subsequently turned to Delfont Manerals, and, recently, the object of further agreements. The original locations date back to 1904, 1909 and 1932.

Examined by Attorney James A. Callahan of Winnemucca, Mr. Callahan, by letter dated April.27, 1967, found Mrs. Mathewson and Mr. Cannon, rightful owners of claims, free and clear of encumberances.

The writer has not checked titles. For additional comments reference is made to our cover-letter.

HISTORY OF PROPERTY AND DISTRICT:

Lincoln's "Mining Districts of Nevada" reports that the district was first located in 1863. Vicksburg hite was, probably, the original operating center.

With reference to the south half of the block, adjacent to Tunnel 8, small production was reported in 1898, with Fine Forest Gold Mining Company continuing to produce through 1906.

It is indicated, without benefit of recorded production, that the property was producing in 1908 and 1910, and from 1915 to 1920. In 1919, the company, by then the Ashdown Gold Mining Company, was building a new mill.

Production was resumed in 1925 on \$20 (one ounce) ore and continued through 1926.

The last period of steady production was 1933 through 1941. In 1941 Mayor James Curley of Boston, an exceptional promoter of that period, enterred the picture and promised big things. Mr. Curley's Nevada programs were failures.

Hrs. Mathewson has reported that her husband mined the property, after the Curley era, recovering \$15 to \$25 material from Tunnel 8 and a winze at the north end. Records indicate 322 tons mined, from 1948 through 1950, averaging \$14 recovered value (0.4 cunces gold). Since the properties were not deeded to Mrs. Mathewson until 1959, Mr. Mathewson was apparently leasing.

Concerning the north half of the block (the Vicksburg side). Mr. Mathewson staked all claims in 1932. Recorded production cannot be found.

Recent history, to wit: (1) a lease and option taken by Painted Hills Mercury Co, to acquire the mill to treat mercury ores, and (2) acquisition of the basic lease by Delfont Minerals to develop the Ashdown property, et cetera, is knowledge to our client.

GEOLOGY

Resumees

Gold, with weak bi-values in silver, occurs in massive white quartz-veining, cutting flatly through a basic rock complex. Quartz, locally because of accompanying coarse pink orthoclase and some coarse mica, is pegmatitic. The "basic rock complex" varies from possible intrusive diorite and granodiorite, to areas of metamorphic gneiss and schist.

The trace of white, quartz veins on surface is irregular; possibly, because veins are not "straight-line" structures, and, too, because structures are very flat and exposed erratically by equally flat surface slopes.

The mineral-bearing intrusive and metamorphic mass is flanked on the west by post-mineral, bedded, volcanic tuffs and flows.

Cutting diagonally across the complex, in the north portion of the block in the Vicksburg Canyon area, is an alteration trend, traceable for 3000 feet with an average width of 300 feet. Such, probably, is an hale expression above a more recent intrusive.

Complications from post m ineral faulting would be an expectancy.

Petrography: (younger to older)
ie: Rock types:

Volcanic andesite (marked Ta and colored bright purple)
bounds the mineralized area on the west, and dips from
29 to 62 degrees to the northwest. Material is dark colored
and forms a resistant ridge.

Volcanic tuffs (ash) and breccias (marked Ttf and colored violet) underlie the andesite; these softer, gray to buff, thinly and perfectly bedded rocks are well exposed along the east base of the amiesite ridge, in the first 400 feet of Tunnel 12 and at the portal of tunnel 10. Tuffs were observed at the mouth of Vicksburg Canyon, underlying andesite. The location has not been tied to our survey.

Basic Complex (marked MG and colored light green); because of persistent northeast "sheeting" throughout the mass, related to an apparent parallel orientation of ferro-magnesium (black) minerals, metam_rphism, ie: rechrystallization, is suggested. Despite the fact that, locally, much of the mass appears to be an intrusive diorite, the existence of sheeting and the presence of true schist forbids, categorically, classifying the material as a simple intrusive rock. The name "meta-gneiss" is employed.

Structure:

Northeast sheeting with dips steeply to the southeast, characterizes the MF unit. Locally, sheeting has controlled the emplacement of the white, pegmatitic quartz.

Northwest structures cut across northeast sheeting, and seem to be the major control for mineralization. With reference to Plat B. note, especially, the yellow-ochre trend, coursing at N 65 W. and then turning north in the area of the 3000-N line. The zone seems limited by a steep n orthwest wall.

Also with general northwest trend are the narrower white, quartz veins, shown in yellow, with flat dip to the southwest.

Intermineral brecciation consisting of brecciated earlier quartz, recemented by a later very fin ely crystalline quartz was observed in the most northerly area of the Vicksburg trend.

Post-mineral structure abounds. The erratic trace of the purple, andesite unit indicates, at least, two strong post-mineral faults, one of which is shown in blue.

The effects of post-mineral faulting are shown on Plat D (sections E-E' and F-F') and on Plats E and F.

Mapping to date is only indicative. It is believed that continued mapping would provide a very complex. post-mineral pattern.

Alteration and Mineralization:

Alterations

No alteration of wall rock accompanies the flat, white pegmatitic veins. Heavy alteration follows the Vicksburg trend.

Concerning the latter, the original hard, dark-colored basic rock has been changed to a white to brownish soft mass; only traces of the original black ferro-magnesium minerals remain; too, there is a suggestion of introduced sugary, iron-stained quarts. The material weathers like sand. Despite the chemical destruction, locally, traces of the original sheeting remain.

Mineralization:

Where fresh and unoxidized, sulphides observed in the white pegmatite-type qartz consist of pyrite (iron bisulphide) chalcopyrite (copper-iron-bisulphide) and molybdemite (molybdemum bisulphide). All sulphides are vew finely crystalline and not pegmatitic in appearance, presenting the possibility that an original coarsely-crystalline pegmatite may have been enriched by later mineralization, consisting of cryptocrystalline quartz and minor finely crystalline sulphides.

With reference to the most northerly and lowest portion of the Vicksburg trend, the sulphides acc mpanying the second quarts period exhibit the same very fine textures.

Mineralization, dominantly oxides in the Tunnel 8 mined area, suggests no change in mineral pre-oxideed makeup. Delfont file material referred to free mercury and even some cinnabar in some of the mineralization. Mercury was not personally recognized; nor was the mineralization tested with black light for tungsten.

Significance and Implications:

1. Despite the existence of true pegmatitic mineralization, later, sulphide-bearing mineralization is indicated.

2. This later, crypto-crystalline quarts, with copper and molybdenum values, was noted throughout. The narrower white veins and, especially, those flat 29 to 33 degree structures north of the Vicksburg Site are examples. Dipping flatly towards the Vicksburg alteration trend, it is believed that such fed from this unit and reflect its potential at depth. Reference is made to our Section C-C*.

3. The above and also the north unit of the Vicksburg trend is at the water table (zone of saturation) and below any zone of emishment. It is our considered opinion that this weakness of mineralization, confirmed by sampling, would not justify the cost of deeper exploration and development.

DEVELOPMENT:

Development consists of innumerable surface trenches, shallow winzes from surface and some 5400 feet of underground workings, 3400 feet of which are open. All, driven to explore and develop the white, flatly dipping bodies are listed on page 7, as follows:

TABLE I

Accessible	Horizontal	Inclined	Total
Tunnel 8 Tunnel 12 Misc. Short Tunnels	1,400 800 ± 800	400	1,800 800 800
	3,000	400	3,400
Inaccessible			
Estimated	2,000		2,000
Rough Total*			5,400

* Excluding stoping up dip and a few short workings off Tunnel 12

Considering the Vicksburg trend, the zon e is without significant development; shallow exposures are limited to 1300 feet of 'dozer' road (300 feet of which crosscuts the trend) and small, shallow cuts in the brecciation and alteration on the north end.

SAMPLES:

Samples, listed below, are divided on the bases of source and nature of the mineralzed body.

Table II concerns samples, cut by the Delfont Company from white quartz, flatly dipping veins, in 1967, and taken from Delfont files. Convinced that such reflect our own personal appraisal of this material, they are listed below. Note that values represent averages. Individual samples can be had from files:

TABLE II

Location-Comments	Au. 02 Ag. 02 Cu%	Moss	# on Plat B
Ashdown MIne; Tun. 8. Lov el. stopes. and Winzes. 19 samples	0.431 0.354 0.1	32 0.030	(1)
Ashdown Vein; surf- ace; 11 samples	0.024 0.006 0.1	50 0.027	(2)
Ashdown #2 Vein; surface; 4 samples	0.027 0.195 0.09	90 0.010	(3)
Vicksburg Vein; 6 samples; surface	0.010 0.080 0.1	90 0.110	(4)
Crystal Vein; 3 Samps Saddle Vein 1 Samp	0.010 0.010 0.20	经过的基础 的	

TABLE II (Concluded) Tunnel 12

Location and Intervals	Qunces Gold	Ounces Silver	Connents
North Rib; 766 to 780	0.05	0.10	
Face @ 777	0.045	0.14	
Hanging wall at 763 feet	0.01	0.01	
Face @ 782	0.035	0.08	
At 777; south rib; top 4 ft.	0.06	0.01	
At 642; 4° vein	0.03	0.10	

Table III lists samples cut by the writer fr m exposures along the Vicksburg Alteration Trend, during the course of examination. Assays are the product of Martin Quist, Metallurgical Laboratories of San Francisco. Results are as follows:

TABLE III		Pr	ecious M	tals	
Reference	From	To	Thick	Oz. Au	Oz. Ag.
Upper Road; Above top swite Back.	h		2/0.7		
# 1 2	600 350	500 250	100	0.01 Trace	0.02
Upper Road; Below top Switch back				es at l	MAL.
# 5678	110 164 208 240 285 330	136 208 240 285 330 358	26 44 32 45 45 28	Trace Trace Trace Trace Trace 0.005	0.02 0.01 0.01 0.02 0.01 0.01
Below bottom switch back	0	50	50	Trace	0.02
Road west from Vicksburg Site 10	170	230	60	NLI	Trace

TABLE III (Conel)

Location and Description	Oz. Au	On. Ag
Face of Tuhnel at 11. in North eliptical area of Vicksburg Trend: 3° across mineralization, 15° from portal.	0,21	0.05
In cut 100 feet north of Tunnel at 11; 20* along cut; a strike sample	0,015	0.08
#13 350 feet north of tunnel at 11; material from dump, re- presenting material from 20 feet of trench crosscutting alteration zone, starting at footwall.	0.020	0.04

Base Metals

	% Copper	4 Moly	% Tunsten Trioxide
Composite of samples 1 thru 10	0.004	0.000	Trace
Composite of samples 11 thru 13	0.006	0.003	Trace.

SAMPLES (Concluded)

Significance

- 1. Average of samples fr m Tunnel 8 workings is reasonably close to reported production averages, ie: 0.431 Oz. versus 0.319 Oz. Delfont's average represents mineralization in place; the production average reports *gross*, probably, as recovered. Efficiency of milling and percent recovery is unknown. Samples are from the enriched zone.
- 2. Ashdown and Saddle Vein samples, from surface outcrops are above enrichment possibilities, and should show improvement with depth, but only to the datum of Tunnel 12 which is at or about the water table.
- 3. Vickburg voin samples, carrying copper and molybdonum sulphides (as well as carbonates of copper) are close to water table. No improvement in the precious metal content would be anticipated. The copper and moly is probably representative of base metal characteristics, in the quarts flat-dipping structures down dip.

4. As for the Vicksburg Alteration Trend, samples of very low tenor speak for themselves, and further work appears unwarranted.

ORE RESERVES

White Quartz-Pegmatite Units:

"Ore" sign ifies mineralized material that can be emplored for, developed, mined and milled at a profit. Our analysis concludes that no ore reserves exist."

As reported above, Delfont files have referred to 8,000,000 tons of ore reserve, of which a minimum of 2,000,000 tons is con sidered an open-pit possibility.

Delfont has indicated a value per ten of \$18, based on 1967 metal prices. On the other hand, the 0.319 ounces of gold from production records, on \$35 gold and 0.3 ounces of silver, represents \$12 per ten. An average of the two figures amounts to \$15 per ten.

Considering underground mining costs, alone, vsins are flat and well below the critical angle of rest. The cheaper forms of underground mining, such as "shrinking" where gravity handles ore flow, cannot be considered.

On the basis of today's economy shrink stoping would cost about \$8.50 per ton and simple cut and fill stoping (an expensive approach) about \$27 per ton. Assuming some method between the extremes (such as rill stoping with muck moved by scrapers, et cetera,) mining alone would abount to about \$17 per ton. The figure, \$2 above imicated average grade, does not include the additional costs of exploration, development, treatment, and miscellaneous operation.

As for profits from open-pit mining, 2,000,000 tons of \$15 rock would offer attractive possibilities. Our own calculations (in personal file and not submitted herein), however, question both tonnages and economics.

Accepting Delfont basic thinking that flat structures perset across the area, have been exposed locally by erosion and can be mined where not exposed by stripping off waste to get to the quartz, our efforts can establish three areas where such might apply.

Considering measured thicknesses, lineal extent, and cross sections, material that might be had through strip methods would amount to 360,000 tons, 580,000 tons of waste would be removed to mine the 360,000 tons. This indicated reserve is not an attractive target.

In view of the very low values from Delfont surface sampling, and the predict that Tunnel 8 better values have been the product of enrichment, it is seriously doubted if anything close to \$15 in the leached z ne above Tunnel 8, or the zone north of the Vicksburg site. just above the water table.

Vicksburg Alteration Trent:

No ore reserves or possibilities for ore reserves are indicated. Sample results and position forbid undertaking the expense of drilling.

For purposes of indicating the zones tonnage potential. a major reason for the writer's original interest, an area with 3000 feet of trend and 300 feet of width would develop at the rate of 6,000,000 tons per 100 feet of depth.

TREATMENT METHODS

Productions

Incomplete production records, provided by the Neveda Bureau of Mines indicate the following:

Period.	Gold Value	<u>Tons</u>	Gross Value	3/ton	Os/Ton
1898-1925	\$ 20.67	18,171	\$ 132,488	\$7.29	0.353
1935-1950	\$ 35	38,509	\$ 349.813	\$9.08	0.259
1898-1950		56,680	\$ 482,301		0.319

Mining:

Production was from the Tunnel 8 area, up dip on flat dipping structures, an unmeasured distance. Thickness of quartz is ten feet.

Stoping was by rill methods, confined to the quartz, with ore, no doubt, moved manually down the flat dip of structure. Stulls support open ground throughout the north end of Tunnel 8 stopes.

In the south area perators have used rock pillars for support. Remaining reserve, as unmined pillars, is minimal.

Milling:

The mill, below Tunnel 8 and north of Tunnel 12, is in shambles. Capacity may have approached 100 tons per day .

reported in good repair. Equipment at hand includes a dis-

carded Wilfley table, eight flotation cells, a classifier, and, as I recall, equipment for cyaniding; as well as burned out retorts and other mercury equipment, left overs from the most recent efforts.

The equipment seems to reflect metallurgical progress over the years, with innovations added to the flow sheet, as treatment methods ad v anced

COST ANALYSIS

Reference is made to the comments above, under "Ore Reserves".

RECAPITULATION:

The wint to quartz veins of the property are without attraction. Indicated reserves are small and uneconomic on today's markets.
Underground reserves, whereas momentarily benefitted with rising prices for gold, would remain in jeapordy with the inevitable rise in mining costs.

The indicated open pit opportunities. ie: 360,000 tons as contrasted with a claim of 2,000,000 tons; and indications that the value per ton will fall far below claimed values, detract from further interest.

The Vicksburg Alteration trend does not merit testing. It is conceivable that the alteration is an halo effect, above a recent intrusive, responsible for the white quartz and minor gold values which characterize the property.

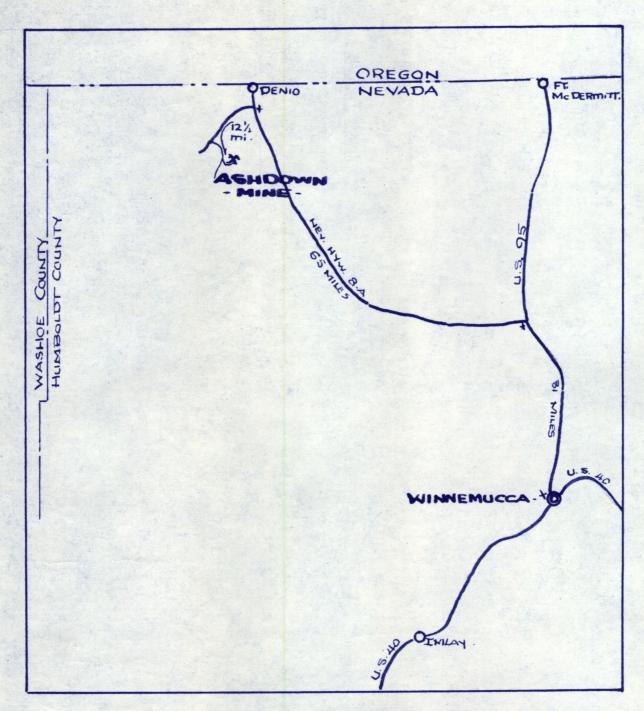
Respectfully submitted,

David LaCount Evans Consulting Geologist.

Reno. Nevada. June 20, 1968.

INDEX

Subject	Para
Introduction Foreword	1
Con elucions Recommendations	1 2
Proceedures Location General and Limiting Conditions Legal Title History of Property	Manny
Geology	4
Development; Teble I	6
Samples Table II; Delfont Results Table III Vicksburg Results; Evans Significance	7 8 9
Ore Reserves Treatment Methods Cost Analysis	10 11 12
Recapitulation	12
<u>Illustrations</u>	
Index Map	Plat A
Surface Geology	Plat B
Cross Sections, A. B. and C	Plat C
Cross Sections D, E, and F	Plat D
Tunnel 8, South 50 scale	Plat 5
Section Y-Y'; 50 Scale	Plat F
Vicksburg Trend; Assay Results	Plat G
	70 4 - 57

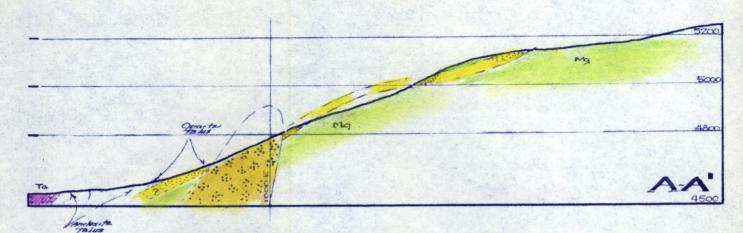


ASHDOWN MINE WARM SPRINGS DIST. HUMBOLDT CO.— NEVADA

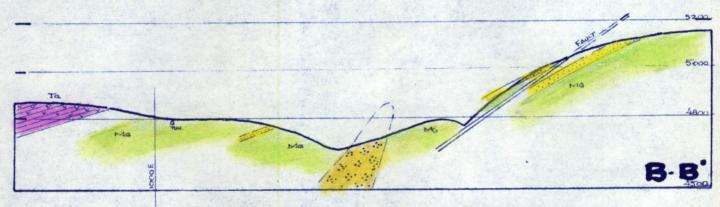
INDEX MAP

DAVID LE COUNT EVANS

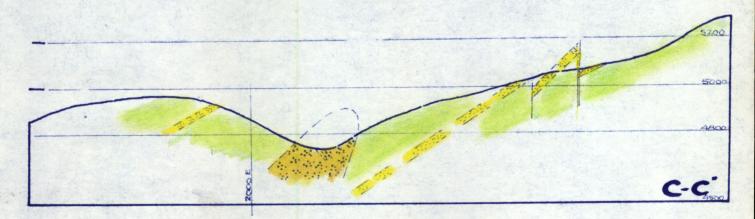
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ASHDOWN MINE WARM SPRINGS DIST. HUMBOLDT CO. - NEVADA



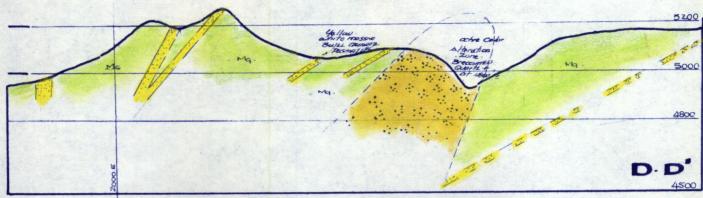
CROSS SECTIONS



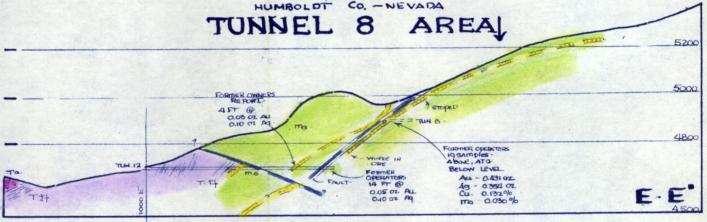
VICKSBURG AREA

DAVID LOCOUNT EVANS CONS. GEOLOGIST

RENO. NEVADA
JUNE 27, 1968

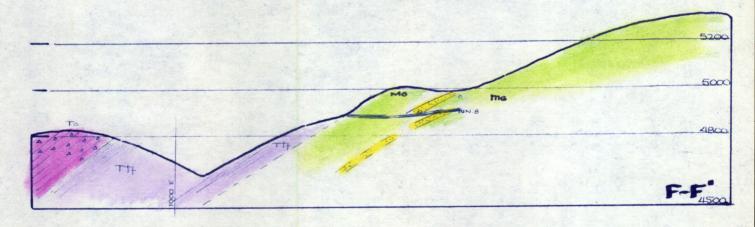


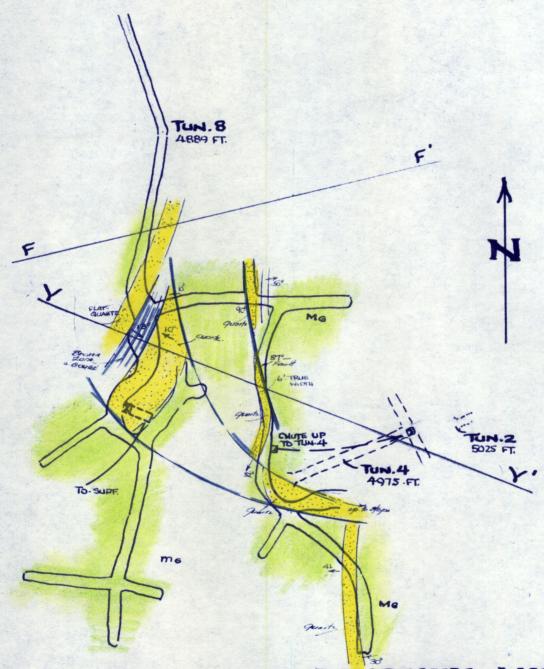
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CROSS SECTIONS

1-IN -400 FT.





ASHDOWN MINE
WARM SPRINGS DIST.
HUMBOLDT CO. - NEVADA

TUNNEL NO. 8 SOUTH WORKINGS

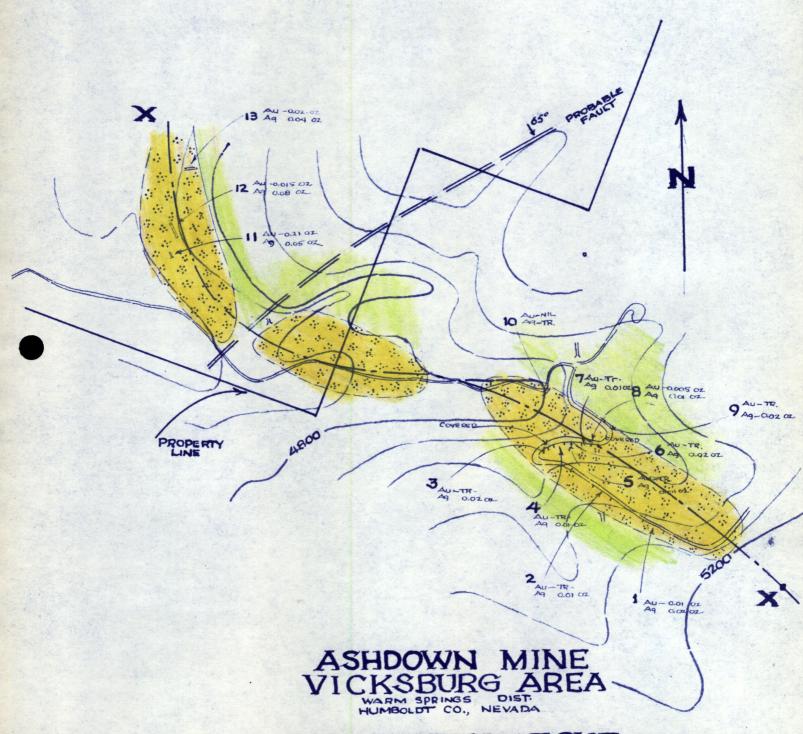
DAVID LECOUNT EVANS

RENO, NEVADA

ASHDOWN MINE WARM SPRINGS DIST. HUMBOLOT CO., NEVADA

CROSS SECT-YY TUNNEL 8 SOUTH

DAVID LECOUNT EVANS " RENO, MENARA CONS. GEOLOGIST.

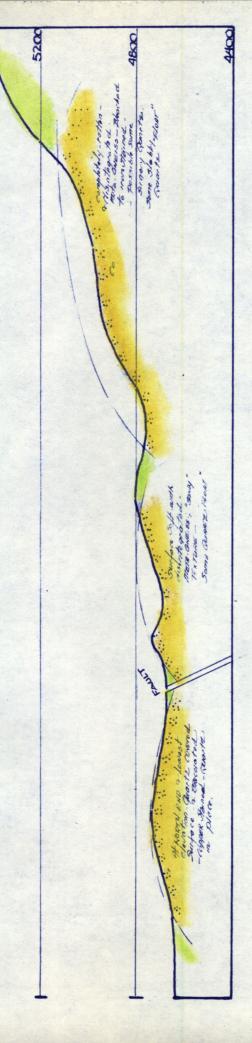


ALTERATION ZONE SAMPLE RESULTS

1 IN = 400 FT.

DAVID LECOUNT EVANS

RENO. NEVADA . JUNE - 27, 1968.



ASHDOWN MINE VICKSBURG AREA WARM SPRINGS DIST. HUMBOLDT CO.~ NEVADA

LONG SECT. X-X'

1 IN. =400 FT.

DAVID LECTURT EVANS CONS. GEOLOGIST.

JUNE 27,1968

Mr. Lenord Dahle, Westfall, Oregon,

1. .

Dear Mr. Dahle:

Please find attached our analysis of the Ashdown property. a study completed at your request. An original and four copies are provided.

Obvious is my negative reaction to the property and the mineralization which has been the source of ores mined and treated, since the property's discovery.

Note that under 'legal Title'. I have written "for additional comments, reference is made to our cover letter". It was deemed wise not to point out the fact that 1300 feet of the 3000 feet of the Vicksburg trend was outside of property lines.

Had the Vicksburg trend invited exploration, the acquisition of more acreage would have been a neccessity.

In reviewing the submitted material and looking for 'loose ends', noted on page 10 is my broad approach to the costs of stoping. Use was made of formalae, assembled in the 40's, with figures adjusted, upward, on the basis of a mining economy which has ascalated four to five fold. The critical reader would find the estimates open to question.

Now, completed in the last two days, I have in the files a detailed analysis, using today's labor scales and costs of materials; and modifying the results; using productivity factors, reflecting steady improvement in mining methods and techniques.

Such places 'shring' stoping and 'cut and fill' stoping, both at \$6 per ton. Figures reflect the results, anticipated under the best of operating conditions, top supervision, and an ore reserve large enough to warrant full capital investment. In view of the Ashdown picture and the need for a reasonable contingency factor. I would place stoping at the \$8.50 per ton, our original lower limit. The \$8.50, representing the cost of stoping, only, plus the costs of exploration, development and milling, et cetera, would still exceed the \$15 head value.

The opportunity to essist you in this study has been greatly apprehiated.

Yours very truly.

David LeCount Evans

July 25, 1968.

Mr. Lenord Dahle, Westfall, Oregon.

Dear Lenord:

I have just returned from a meeting with a fellow named, James Lee, who called me this morning and set up an appointment to discuss properties.

I do not know who he represents, but he assured me that it was a Salt Lake City investment group, and reference was also made, to Ariz na parties who had knowledge of the Ashdown mine; to such an extent that Lee told me that he was aware of the fact that I had wirrten a negative report on the property.

This I could not deny, but as far as anything else I urged that he contact you if he wanted any more information.

Lee lives at 1312 East 7th Street, Beaumont, California. I can't make him out or his purposes. One thing was evident that he did not know too much mining.

I pass this on to you for whatever good the information may be to you.

Our best to you,

David Leg unt Evans.

July 2, 1968.

Mr. Ienerd Dahle, Westfall, Oregon.

Dear Lenord:

Tomorrow finds me flying to Durango, Colorado; and it is planned to be back in Reno on Saturday night. Monday Will see the start of three days of work between Winnemucca and Lovelock.

Your Ashdown reports sit here in the office, looking for permission to mail them on to you. Perhaps, by the time I get back, the time will be right.

I would like to have you go over the report; to know that you know and understand what my reactions were would make me feel a lot better.

Trusting that all is going well, and with best regards,

Yours very truly!

David LeCount Evans

Tuesday, June 25, 1968.

Mr. Lenord Dahle, Westfall, Oregon.

Dear Lenord:

We are back in Reno, having driven in late yesterday afternoon from Sunnyvale. It was good to get out of the Big Valley, with its 104 temperature in Sacramento.

Plans to go n to Arizona from San Francisco, lacking confirmation, were abandoned. We now plan to be here until Thursday, and then return to Ukiah, for two days of catching up on the developments on a property, unmapped for the past year.

Be assured that material is at hard, ready for mailing when you want it. Too, in the event you want to reach me at any time, Kitty will always know where I am and be able to provide the telephone number.

I am not sending a copy of this note to John since I assume that he will be with you.

Best regards.

David Let unt Evans.















