

May 17, 1944

MEMORANDUM:

TO: H. S. MUDD
J. L. BRUCE
PHILIP WISEMAN

FROM: BLAIR W. STEWART

RE: Report of Gold Properties of
Wicks Gulch and Dead Man Flat,
Sierra County, New Mexico.

- - -

Submitted by H. Wier Hess
303 Sixth Avenue - Box 672
Hot Springs, New Mexico
(Phone 563, Ring 3)

The following is a copy of a report on the property
by Gordon W. Bourke-Wilder, a Mining Engineer:

"Report of the Gold Properties of
Wicks Gulch and Dead Man Flat.
Between Hot Springs and Hillsboro
New Mexico.

These properties are located 30 miles South-west
from Hot Springs, in the Southwestern part of New Mexico;
6 miles from Hillsboro, to the West; and directly on
U.S. Highway 180, which leads to Hillsboro from High-
way 85 South from Hot Springs.

The properties consist of the following claims, sub-
division of sections in Township 16 S; R 7 W; and
all held by location, properly recorded under the
Mining Laws of the U.S. and local laws and recorded in

the Court House of Sierra County, at Hot Springs New Mexico. All assessment work is done and recorded, and the properties are protected up to June 30th, 1947. The legal description of these claims is as follows:

Wicks 1 to 20 inclusive, and recorded in Book Q, pages 470 to 474 inclusive and in Book R, pages 301 and 321, in the Recorders Office, at Hot Springs, New Mexico. All these claims are situated in the N.E. 1/4 of the N.E. 1/4 of Sect. 12, Twn. 16 S. R. 7 W. N.W. 1/4 of the N.W. 1/4 of Sec 7, Twn. S. R. 6 W. and S 1/2 of Sec 1. Twn 16 S. R. 7 W.

These properties and their respective locations are shown on the Government Map, "The Gila National Forest".

Topography.

This placer area, the elevation of which is 4,000 feet above sea level, lies on the sloping ground from the Black Range immediately West down to the Rio Grande River, 10 miles east.

Black Peak and Animas Peak stand out prominently among the rugged mountains on the West. In the Western part of the placer area, there is a succession of ridges and valleys, extending Easterly. The valleys broaden and the ridges flatten out.

Geology.

Underlying gravels cover the country rock on all parts of the property. The underlying rock is highly metamorphosed—really an igneous rock in its present stage. An igneous dyke crosses along the International claim of the Gold Dust Placers, an adjoining property. This dyke is reported to hold the water supply in the well on the property of this report.

The interest in this project, however, is not in the underlying rock structure, but in the overlying gravels. The entire area of these claims is covered by a layer upon layer of gravel

The lower layers are the ancient gravels brought from Colorado by the Rio Grande River; the upper layers

have been washed down from the Black Range. A number of lode claims in these mountains have had rich gold production, but the real source of the placer gold is the ancient channel of the Rio Grande river across this property in the early ages, and is now the channel which the river from the Black Range follows to the present channel of the Rio Grande.

The hills immediately West of this property from which the river channel comes, are the result of an upheaval in not later than the Cambrian Period. At the time of this upheaval the igneous granite came through to the surface in a very wide area. This intrusion, running in a Northerly and Southerly direction, is from two to three miles wide. As the granite lies today exposed on the surface in the rough riffles and the decomposed matter lying in these riffles is only the conglomerate of the first erosion of the granite of the Earth's surface, it proves that this upheaval must have occurred in the early Cambrian Period.

Along the line of the hills West of the property, through which this river passes, there is an intrusion of igneous rock (about two miles wide) carrying eleven veins of ore on which in former days 49 separate mines were worked- all gold properties. This rich stratum lies between the present Earth's crust and the three mile intrusion of Granite. Other mines outside this district on this intrusion, north have been rich gold producers. A cross-dyke intruding through the district East and West has cut off the gold-bearing formations. Immediately South of this dyke-and for a distance of 16 miles-rich silver mines have been operated.

In order to understand the relationship between all these mineral hills and the four hundred acres about which this report is concerned, it will be sufficient to say that the old river channel leads directly from these hills down through these four hundred acres and that the incline is so steep, that the land does not begin to flatten until it reaches this property. The largest nuggets of the entire district have been extracted from the small channel which flows through the middle of these claims.

The pay dirt is a heavy gravel iron-stained red river wash. This property contains a low estimation of 9,600,000 yards of pay dirt which will average \$1.40 per yard. Tests made by engineers prior to the tests made by the undersigned, have produced a good showing of gold throughout

the entire property. Nuggets running from \$1.00 to \$20.00 are very common in this old river channel. This statement is made merely to indicate the apparent value of this property.

Thoroughness of Testing.

During the past fourteen years thorough testing of all parts of this property, the undersigned has moved approximately 22,000 yards of dirt from which \$23,000.00 was taken.

During the years 1937-1938 Lessors moved about 140,000 yards of dirt on Dead Man Flat from which \$170,000 was recovered. The lease was cancelled because of the way the Lessors operated and work the ground, and owing to the fact that they did not recover more than 50% of the values, and refused to work all the ground as they moved along following a rich pay streak. Thus covering up much valuable ground and leaving nearly 50% of value in tailings.

Water.

There has been two 8 inch wells put in since well was dug to water bed, one of which is 200 yards from dug well, and shows water level to be the same as the dug well. Also to be just below level of intrusion dyke crossing property N and S connecting with dyke South of property. On the West end of property in the rise of hills a shallow dug well shows water at 16 feet and a drilled 8 inch well produced water a 100 feet. Farther up the canyon there is a profusion of water from a well only 300 yards west of property. I firmly believe all water necessary may be had to operate this property.

Respectfully submitted,

Gordon W. Bourke-Wilder, E.M. "

Comment

Mr. Hess stated that the channel would average 200 feet wide by 20 feet deep and was contained in 400 acres of ground. He thought that he could acquire another 80 acres. He says that the topography is such that dredging or

hydraulic can be accomplished. There are no live streams in the area and water could be obtained from wells at a very shallow depth in ample amounts for either type of operation.

Terms.

A price of \$40,000.00 is being asked for the property, with a \$10,000.00 payment after a 120-day testing period, the balance of the principal to be paid on a royalty basis of 10% of the net mint return.

Considerable testing has been done on the property and it has been worked on a small scale by the present owner for a number of years past. The owner presently wishes to sell so that he may properly care for his 18-year old daughter who has been stricken with infantile paralysis. His property would need to be examined in order to acquire any further data than that already given.

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Blair W. Stewart

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The interest in this project, however, is not in the underlying rock structure, but in the overlying gravels. The entire area of these claims is covered by a layer upon layer of gravel.

The lower layers are the ancient gravels brought fro^m Colorado by the Rio Grande River; the upper layers have been washed down from the Black Range. A number of lode claims in these mountains have had rich gold production, but the real source of the placer gold is the ancient channel of the Rio Grande River across this property in the early ages, and is now the channel which the river from the Black Range follows to the present channel of the Rio Grande.

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