UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF MINERALS EXPLORATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

March 8, 1965

OME
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTER.
1965
REGION III
R COLOR

Memorandum

To: Mails and Records Branch

From: George C. Selfridge, Chief
Division of Exploration Operations

Subject: OME-6383 (Gold-Silver)
King Midas Mines, Inc.
Alta Claims
Mohave County, Arizona

The Applicant has not replied to the Acting Director's letter of December 11, 1964. Accordingly, the subject docket is referred to the inactive file and considered as withdrawn.

George C. Selfridge

MMerrithew/mm
cc: Director's Reading File
✓Region III
Docket
120M

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF MINERALS EXPLORATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

Rcd 12/14

DEC 2 1 1964

Mr. Leland M. Wiscombe
President
King Midas Mines, Inc.
4925 East Flower Street
Phoenix 18, Arizona

Re: OMX-6383 (Gold-Silver)
King Midas Mines, Inc.
Alta Claims
Mohave County, Arizona

Dear Mr. Wiscombe:

In reply to your request of December 5, 1964, we shall hold your application in abeyance until March 5, 1965, in order that you may have time to submit any additional information which you may wish regarding your application.

Sincerely yours,

(signed) FRANK E. JOHNSON

Acting Director

GCSelfridge/mm (12/11/64)
cc: Director's Reading File
Region III
Docket
Mr. Selfridge

Bldg. 20 - Denver Federal Center
Denver, Colo. 80225

December 7, 1964

Mr. Leland M. Wiscombe, President
King Midas Mines, Inc.
4925 East Flower Street
Phoenix 18, Arizona

Re: OMX 6383 (Gold and Silver)
King Midas Mines, Inc.
Alta Shaft
Mohave County, Arizona

Dear Mr. Wiscombe:

I am forwarding your letters of December 5 to the Washington office of OMX.

As soon as you have definitely decided what exploration, if any, you believe is warranted on the property, please amend your present application accordingly.

Yours very truly,

Hugh M. Connors
Acting Field Officer
OMX, Region III

cc: G. C. Selfridge
6383
Chron

King Midas Mines, Inc.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

4925 East Flower Street,
Phoenix 18, Arizona

December 5, 1964

United States Department of the Interior
Office of Minerals Exploration
Building 20, Federal Center
Denver 25, Colorado

Attention: Hugh M. Connors

Re: OME - 6383

Dear Mr. Connors,

Enclosed are the letters requesting that the department hold our application in abeyance.

If they are proper, please forward them.

I can only express my apologies for the useless trip. It seems that everyone goes to sleep in these small towns. They assured me Tuesday that everything was ready.

You indicated that you may not be in complete agreement with our proposed work. Any suggestions you might have would certainly be appreciated.

Thank you so much for your time and effort.

Sincerily,

KING MIDAS MINES, INC.

Leland M. Wiscombe
President

encl:

King Midas Mines, Inc.

OATMAN, ARIZONA

December 5, 1964

United States Department of Interior
Office of Minerals Exploration
Washington 25, D. C.

Att: Allen S. Nolan
Chief Division of Administrative Management

Subject: OMX - 6383

Gentlemen,

We request that you hold our application in abeyance until we advise you.

Very truly yours,

KING MIDAS MINES, INC.

Roland M. Nicoombe
President

King Midas Mines, Inc.

OATMAN, ARIZONA

October 28, 1964

United States Department of the Interior
Office of Minerals Exploration
Building 20, Federal Center
Denver 25, Colorado

OME
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OCT 1964
REGION III
DENVER, COLORADO

Attention: Hugh M. Connors

Gentlemen:

We submit herewith our application for an Office of Minerals Exploration loan.

Our own efforts to continue exploration this past year have not met with success.

The information specified is in the accompanying papers and report. If further information is required, please advise.

Respectfully submitted,

KING MIDAS MINES, Inc.

Leland M. Wiscombe
President

LMW/jw

October 23, 1964

First National Bank of Arizona
7032 East Camelback Road
Scottsdale, Arizona

Gentlemen:

The accompanying information and outline of proposed work will acquaint you with the assets, structure, history and regional geology of our gold mine in Oatman, Arizona, and the exploration program we want to undertake in the Alta Shaft.

We hereby submit our application for a loan in the amount of $12,000 for one year to finance this work.

A prompt reply would be greatly appreciated.

Yours very truly,

KING MIDAS MINES, Inc.

Leland M. Wiscombe
President

LMW/jw

FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF ARIZONA

PARADISE VALLEY OFFICE
7032 EAST CAMELBACK ROAD, SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA 85252 - PHONE WH 6-3431

October 27, 1964

Mr. Leland M. Wiscombe, President
King Midas Mines, Inc.
Oatman, Arizona

Dear Mr. Wiscombe:

We are sorry to advise you that we are unable to favorably consider an application for a $12,000 loan.

The term of one year, without proper security and with an unsatisfactory repayment source, precludes us from further consideration of this credit request.

Very truly yours,

H. D. WASSOM
Manager

HDW:LP

VALLEY NATIONAL BANK

SCOTTSDALE OFFICE 137 NORTH SCOTTSDALE ROAD SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA

October 27, 1964

Mr. Leland M. Wiscombe, President
King Midas Mines, Inc.
Oatman, Arizona

Dear Mr. Wiscombe:

Based on information available to us at this time we are unable to look favorably on your request for a 12 month loan in the amount of $12,000.00.

We trust that you will be able to arrange this financing elsewhere.

Very truly yours,

Vaughn R. Patterson

Vaughn R. Patterson
Assistant Manager

VRP/eb

October 23, 1964

Valley National Bank
137 North Old Scottsdale Road
Scottsdale, Arizona

Gentlemen:

The accompanying information and outline of proposed work will acquaint you with the assets, structure, history and regional geology of our gold mine in Oatman, Arizona, and the exploration program we want to undertake in the Alta Shaft.

We hereby submit our application for a loan in the amount of $12,000 for one year to finance this work.

A prompt reply would be greatly appreciated.

Yours very truly,

KING MIDAS MINES, Inc.

Leland M. Wiscombe
President

LMW/jw

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF MINERALS EXPLORATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

NOV 6 - 1964

Memorandum

To: Acting Field Officer, Region III

From: Chief, Division of Exploration Operations

Subject: OME-6383 (Gold-Silver)
King Midas Mines, Inc.
Alta Claims
Mohave County, Arizona

The subject application for financial assistance in exploration work on the 300 level of the Alta shaft is referred to Region III for review, a field examination if deemed advisable, and recommendations.

In the event you conclude that an exploration contract appears warranted, the estimated costs for the drifting and crosscutting as submitted should be reviewed with the Applicant regarding the size of the compressor, air and water lines, rail, ventilation pipe, timber, cross section of the openings, footage per shift, etc. Also, the Applicant should be requested to submit a larger claim map showing the individual claims, location of shaft, and the strike and dip of the vein.

George C. Selfridge

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF MINERALS EXPLORATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

NOV 6 - 1964

King Midas Mines, Inc.

Oatman, Arizona

Re: OME-6383 (Gold-Silver)
King Midas Mines, Inc.
Alta Claims
Mohave County, Arizona

Gentlemen:

The application for assistance in exploring the subject property has been reviewed by the Division of Exploration Operations of the Office of Minerals Exploration and referred to Mr. H. M. Conners, Acting Field Officer, Office of Minerals Exploration, Region III, Building 20, Federal Center, Denver, Colorado, 80225.

The Regional Office will notify you in case additional information concerning the application is needed.

Sincerely yours,

George Fumich Jr.

Acting Director

MMerrithew/mm (11/5/64)
cc: Director's Reading File
Region III
Docket

P.S. Please advise Mr. Conners whether or not the Alta shaft and 300 level are accessible for examination.

Bldg. 20 - Denver Federal Center
Denver, Colo. 80225

October 30, 1964

Memorandum

To: George C. Selfridge, Chief
Division of Exploration Operations
Washington, D. C. 20240

From: Acting Field Officer, OME, Region III

Subject: Application for OME aid (Gold and Silver)
King Midas Mines, Inc.
King Midas Mines
Mohave County, Ariz.

Attached is the subject application in the amount of $20,820.

One copy is retained in our file.

Original signed by

T. M. Romslo
for Hugh M. Connors

cc: File
Chron

November 3, 1964

King Midas Mines, Inc.
Oatman, Arizona

Subject: OME - 6383

Gentlemen:

Your application for exploration assistance, dated October 26, 1964, submitted to our office at Denver, Colorado has been assigned Docket Number OME - 6383.

Please identify all future correspondence relating to your application by this docket number.

Sincerely yours,

Allen S. Dakan, Chief
Division of Administrative
Mana gement

Copy to Region III

King Midas Mines, Inc.

OATMAN, ARIZONA

4925 East Flower Street
Phoenix, Arizona

November 23, 1964

United States Department of the Interior
Office of Minerals Exploration
Building 20 - Denver Federal Center
Denver, Colorado 80225

Att: Hugh M. Connors

Re: Alta Claims
Mohave, County

Dear Mr. Connors,

I will meet you at the Wallapai Motor Court in Kingman December 3, 1964. We can drive over to the properties from there.

The mine will be ready for your examination.

I will try and be in Kingham Wednesday evening.

Very truly yours,

KING MIDAS MINES, INC.

Leland M. Wiscombe
President

Bldg. 20 - Denver Federal Center
Denver, Colo. 80225

AIR MAIL

November 19, 1964

Mr. Leland M. Wiscombe
c/o Una Construction Company
14 East Stetson Building
Stetson Drive
Scottsdale, Arizona

Re: OMR-6383 (Gold-Silver)
King Midas Mines, Inc.
Alta Claims
Mohave County, Arizona

Dear Mr. Wiscombe:

I would like to schedule the field examination of the captioned property for December 3, 1964. Would this date be satisfactory for you or your representative to meet me at the Wallapai Motor Court in Kingman and accompany me to your property?

I have other business in the area and plan to check in at the Wallapai Motor Court the evening of November 30.

Yours very truly,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
Hugh M. Connors
Acting Field Officer
OMR, Region III

cc: G. C. Selfridge
6383
Chron

King Midas Mines, Inc.

OATMAN, ARIZONA

November 16, 1964

Mr. H. M. Connors, Acting Field Officer,
Office of Minerals Exploration,
Region III, Building 20, Federal Center,
Denver, Colorado, 80225

Dear Mr. Connors,

Re: OME-6383 (Gold-Silver)
King Midas Mines, Inc.
Alta Claims
Mohave County, Arizona

The Alta shaft is accessible for examination. Please advise us a few days in advance before your anticipated inspection and I will make sure all equipment is functioning properly before we arrive at the site.

Write me at my Phoenix address.

Leland M. Wiscombe
% Una Construction Company
14 East Stetson Building, Stetson Drive
Scottsdale, Arizona

Sincerely yours,

Leland M. Wiscombe
President

MME Form 40
July 1962

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF MINERALS EXPLORATION

Budget Bureau No. 42-R1368
Approval expires Dec. 31, 1963

APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IN MINERALS EXPLORATION

Pursuant to Public Law 85-701 (72 Stat. 700; 30 U.S.C. 641)

NAME OF APPLICANT *(Full legal name and mailing address as they should appear on contract if one is executed.)*

KING MIDAS MINES, Inc.

Oatman, Arizona

APPLICANT DO NOT USE THIS BLOCK

DOCKET NUMBER

DATE RECEIVED

REGION

DIVISION CODE

BUSINESS ORGANIZATION *(Check one)*

INDIVIDUAL	
CORPORATION	X
PARTNERSHIP	
OTHER *(Specify)*	

STATE IN WHICH FIRM IS ORGANIZED Arizona

LIST CORPORATE OFFICERS OR PARTNERS HERE, IF APPLICABLE

NAME	ADDRESS	TITLE
Leland M. Wiscombe	4925 E. Flower Street Phoenix 18, Arizona	President
James DeWarr	El Monte, California	Vice President
Mrs. Frances Hittson	Oatman, Arizona	Secretary and Treasurer

MINERAL(S) FOR WHICH YOU WISH TO EXPLORE
Gold and Silver

ESTIMATED COST OF PROJECT
$ $ 20,820

PROPERTY NAME	LOCATION COUNTY	STATE
Alta Shaft King Midas Mines	Mohave County,	Arizona

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Before filling out this application, please read the *OME Regulations for Obtaining Federal Assistance in Financing Explorations for Mineral Reserves* (30 CFR Chap. III). To assure prompt action, your application must provide all applicable material and information specified on the back of this application form. Avoid unnecessary correspondence and delays by submitting complete and accurate information. *Please submit two copies of this application and all accompanying papers* except as otherwise noted. Place your name and address on each sheet. Each item of information, maps, and reports required as a part of this application is described on the back of this form. Identify each attached statement by the item number to which it applies. If an item does not apply to your application, show the item number on your statement and after it write "not applicable." Maps or sketches should be used to supplement narrative descriptions of the property location and boundaries in item 2, existing mine workings and geology in item 3, and the proposed exploration work in item 5. When this information is not too complex, all of it may be shown on one map or sketch. All documents and other attachments submitted as a part of this application, except those in item 3(g) which you mark to be returned, become the property of the Government and will not be returned to the applicant. Send true copies, *not originals*, of leases, contracts, and other documents which are an essential part of your business records. *File this application with the Office of Minerals Exploration, Department of the Interior, Washington 25, D. C., or with the nearest OME Field Office.*

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned, whether as an individual, corporate officer, partner, or otherwise, both in his own behalf and acting for the applicant, certifies that the information set forth in this form and accompanying papers is correct and complete, to the best of his knowledge and belief, and that he would not ordinarily undertake the proposed exploration under current conditions and circumstances at his sole expense.

October 26, 1964
DATED

Leland M. Wiscombe
BY *(Signature)*

President
TITLE

A wilfully false statement or certification to any Department or Agency of the United States Government is a criminal offense. U. S. Code, Title 18, Sec. 1001.

The properties of King Midas Mines, Inc. are located near the town of Oatman in the San Francisco Mining District, approximately 25 miles west of Kingman in Mohave County, Arizona. The area is served by old Highway 66, which is paved. The area is also served by adequate electric power for mining or milling.

The Alta Shaft of the King Midas Mines is located on the Boundary Cone Vein, which is a large fissure vein, well defined. It appears to be an extension of the Leland Vein on the west in Section 20; is bisected by the Pioneer Vein in Section 21; joins the Gold Dust Vein, and disappears under the mountainous elevations in the east central area of Section 26.

The Boundary Cone Vein is approximately one and one-half miles southwest of the Tom Reed Vein, which it roughly parallels.

Dr. F. L. Ransome gives a complete geological mapping and report of the area in U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin No. 743. He completed his report in the spring of 1921 and concluded that the best had been discovered and taken out, and that at greater depths the mineralization of the area was limited to certain volcanic flows. In general these would be shallow to the east, increasing in depth to the west and south of the district.

Dr. Ransome concurred with Schrader (U.S. Bulletin No. 397) in this respect. However, several eminent geologists and engineers do not agree with Dr. Ransome, and it is worth noting that the major production of the district was achieved <u>after</u> 1921, the year Dr. Ransome's report was submitted.

F. W. Sperr, E.M., in his report to the Tom Reed Gold Mines Company in December, 1915, states:

> "<u>Extent in Depth</u>. In Bulletin 397 of the U.S. Geological Survey, the veins of the district are considered to be limited in depth to certain volcanic flows. There are many veins in the district that are fillings of cracks in the rocks that do not go to great depths. But the Tom Reed vein is in a profound fault fissure that undoubtedly does go to great depth; and it is probable that the vein goes deep along with the fissure.
>
> "Between the 9th and 10th levels of the mine, it is conclusively proved that the hangingwall has been thrown down a long way. On the higher levels, both the footwall and the hangingwall rocks are andesites in which the amount of faulting is not easily demonstrated; but in the footwall workings between the 9th and 10th levels, the horizontal contact between the black chloritic rocks and lighter-colored, overlying adesites, is clearly and abundantly exposed; while in the hangingwall the undifferentiated andesites

continue downward as deep as the mine has been opened (1400').

"No doubt, at some greater depth, the contact with the black underlying rocks will be found in the hangingwall. Then the amount of downthrow will become known; but the amount already shown to exist, proves deep fissuring.

"There is yet nothing to indicate that the vein is going to stop following the fissure downward."

It is only fair to note the fact that the mine was flooded below the 900 level during the time that Dr. Ransome made his survey.

S. S. Jones, E.M., engineer for the Tom Reed Mines Company, stated in his report to management for the year ending 1915, under the title "GEOLOGICAL FEATURES:"

"Between the 950 and 1075 ft. levels there has been a marked change in the character of the wall rocks enclosing the vein. Heretofore, the foot wall of the vein has been remarkably solid and free from fractures and brecciation; such, however, is not the case on our lowest level. There the foot wall from the winze to the ore body was highly brecciated and showed unmistakable signs of intense crushing forces. The major cleavage planes dipping in an opposite direction to those of the overlying rocks, this disturbance did not in any way affect the dip of the vein nor did it modify the character of the ore either as to structure or average values. The foot wall in the lowest level is separated from the ore body by a well defined clay seam. This occurrence has never been noted elsewhere on your properties.

"The foot wall at the 1075 ft. level has the characteristics of a contact phase of a dyke rather than those of a surface flow. I am of the opinion that the flow at this point was below the original contour of the country at the time of the eruption of the chloritic andesite, which, so far as known at present, is the most productive enclosing rock. Mineralogically, there is no difference between the rocks of our lowest level and those above, the difference is one of structure, being much finer grained.

"The survival of the ore body through this change in country rock gives much encouragement for the outcome of future exploration at depth."

Subsequent workings in the Tom Reed mines proved that Dr. Ransome misjudged the area in respect to values in depth. The richest ore ever mined in the district came from the 1100-1200 levels of the Black Eagle shaft on the Tom Reed Vein. The Katherine Mine to the northwest is entirely in the granites, which underlay the andesites of the Oatman area.

Oscar A. Hershey, geologist for the Tom Reed Mines Company, concluded in his last report to the company in 1937 that "the deepest workings in the Black Eagle and American mines gave evidence of a juncture of the two veins in a sulphide zone at a depth of 11,000 ft."

Many of the prospects in the Oatman area may some day be good producers. It is worthy of note that the early mining engineers had faith and determination to explore at sufficient depth to discover the good mines. The original Blue Ridge Mining Company failed to find the good ore in the Tom Reed Mine. Ironically, this company quit 25 feet from the ore. Another example of the depth possibilities of this district is that of the Black Eagle Mine, in which ore was found workable only from the 400-foot level downward.

Carl Lauson in his reports makes an important observation (Arizona Bureau of Mines Bulletin No. 131, Page 125), to wit: "...it is not necessary to speculate as to what changes sinking in a barren outcrop will reveal. If the fourth or fifth stage quartz is present or evidence of supergene enrichments are seen, development should be undertaken."

There appears to be another phenomenon in the Oatman area that leads us to believe it will again be a major producer of gold and silver:

Underlying the area are an unknown number of veins running in a northerly-southerly direction. Three of these have been accidentally discovered. The United Eastern vein apexed 270 feet below the surface. It was the best producer in the district, reportedly paying $16,000,000 in dividends to its owners. The Big Jim was a north-south vein 400 feet under the surface. The ore averaged 1 oz. of gold per ton. The third vein, recently discovered, is in the White Chief Mine. It is presently being developed.

None of these veins was exposed on the surface. Each lies in a north-south direction, whereas the other veins in the district run more southeast-northwest. There is no indication on the surface of their existence. Each is characterized by the 4th and 5th stage enrichments.

The proposed exploration in the Alta Shaft of King Midas Mines is located along three unpatented lode claims: the Alta, Book 5-D, Page 470; the Alta No. 1, Book 5-D, Page 471, and the Alta No. 2, Book 5-D, Page 472, Mohave County, Arizona. These claims were acquired in 1958 by King Midas Mines, Inc., an Arizona corporation.

The only known production from the Alta Shaft came from a small stope on the west drift of the 300 level and from a side vein on the east end of the present drift on the same level. The Mines Handbook, Volume XVI, by Walter Harvey Weed states: "By a 310-foot shaft with drifts on the 300' level, the east drift exposed an ore shoot 75' long and 4'- 6' wide, showing 3' of $30.00 ore. A second shoot to the west is said to average $12.00."

King Midas Mines, Inc., has constructed a road from the property to the paved old Highway 66, a distance of one half mile. King Midas Mines, Inc., has purchased, paid for and installed the following equipment in preparation for effective exploration and development:

1. Headframe and 9 HP Fairbanks Morse gas hoist.
2. International Harvester gas-driven electric power unit, Model U-6.
3. Torpedo Submersible Pump.
4. 50-ton ore bin.
5. Tracks and cars.
6. Some drilling equipment, including hoses and one drill with leg and steel.

The corporation is authorized to sell some additional stock. Sufficient stock can and will be subscribed for to provide the company's share of the expense of exploration as planned, subject to procurement of the loan.

Proposed Exploration

1. Extend the west drift 100 feet into the known ore shoot designated as Area "A" on the accompanying map. The ore shoots of the district are normally 200 to 600 feet in length. One hundred feet of careful sampling should determine the value of the indicated ore to the west.

2. Extend the present drift northward into the indicated vein, Area "B." This should determine with some drifting the ore values northward along this vein.

3. Drift east through the fault zone and crosscut to pick up the fissure vein. The Rattlesnake Fault has thrown the vein considerably. Many of the best producing areas of the district were found in the fault zones. There was evidence of enrichment subsequent to the faulting in the Black Eagle and Grey Eagle mines of the Tom Reed Company. We believe the best chance of finding workable ore at this shallow depth is in this area. Three hundred feet of drifting should be programmed in order to be sure the vein is picked up to the east and properly explored.

4. Work will be started within 30 days of receipt of OME contract and will be completed within one year.

5. Work will be under the direction of the president of King Midas Mines, Inc. A competent and qualified engineer will be engaged as a consultant, probably Charles H. Dunning, Phoenix, Arizona.

Cost Estimates

Cost estimates are based upon our best information of conditions at the mine and the limitations placed on the mining facilities. The hoist is small and slow. The bucket rides on skids rather than a proper skip on rails.

Some timbering may be required in the fault zone; otherwise the walls are good and timbering will be very limited. We estimate the average cost per lineal foot of drifting to be $41.64, based on the following:

	Per Day
Compressor rental	$ 20.00
Rental for 1 drill and leg	3.00
Gas and oil	14.00
Labor	
4 men (32 hrs. x $2.80)	89.60
Taxes & insurance @ 17%	15.23
Total costs per day....	$141.83

Estimated production per day: 4 feet

Costs (direct) per foot	35.46
Fixed costs per foot:	
Airline piping	.68
Ventilating ducts	.20
Drill steel	1.80
Powder and fuses	2.50
Contingency & timber	1.00
Total costs per foot...	$ 41.64 *

* Engineering and overhead not included.

We propose to enter into a contract with the Office of Mineral Exploration to explore by drifting 500 feet of drift 4'6" x 7' in the areas designated on the map of the mine, for a total direct cost of $20,820, which does not include the cost of engineering, assaying or overhead.

The officers of King Midas Mines, Inc., are:

President: Leland M. Wiscombe, 4925 E. Flower Street, Phoenix, Arizona

Vice President: James DeWarr, El Monte, California

Secretary-Treasurer: Mrs. Frances Hittson, Oatman, Arizona

Respectfully submitted,

KING MIDAS MINES, Inc.

Leland M. Wiscombe

Leland M. Wiscombe, President

ARIZONA DAYS AND WAYS MAGAZINE, OCTOBER 25, 1964

Slabs Of Gold Big As A Man's Hand

PRACTICALLY ALL OF the once-famous Arizona desert gold mines have been long worked out, and the camps that hummed with the three-shift activity of "bindle stiff" miners—Cornish, Irish, Austrian and others—are now mostly deserted holes in the ground, with very little remaining above ground even to hint at the throbbing life that existed there.

At the Fortuna, that desert, sand-blown old camp at the western-foot, Yuma-side of the Gila Mountains, nothing remains above ground but a few scattered timbers and a little useless machinery. The mine produced a million or two in the 1890s before the vein faulted and never was picked up again. Farther north in Yuma County, in the foothill of the S H, now called the Kofa Mountains, a few old shacks remain at the King of Arizona, and its neighbor, the North Star.

The King of Arizona, with a gold production rated between four and fourteen million, was one of the longest lived of the desert discoveries, being worked almost steadily for 12 years or more. The North Star, mostly silver, produced more than a million.

THEN, STILL IN YUMA County, the Harquahala Mine, in the Little Harquahalas, or westerly extension of the main Harquahalas, produced between three and four million in gold.

Of course, the famous Vulture near Wickenburg was the most noted in Maricopa County and was one of the first great gold mines discovered in Arizona. It produced unknown millions, but probably less than the Congress.

The Congress group was discovered just north of the present day Congress Junction, in Yavapai County, in 1888, and not only produced about eight million in value of the yellow metal, but was the cause of the Santa Fe Railroad building to that place, and then on to Phoenix in the 1890s.

IN YAVAPAI THERE were also the Crown King, the Oro Bella, the McCabe and perhaps several others in the million dollar class, but the Congress was by far the most productive gold mine in the county.

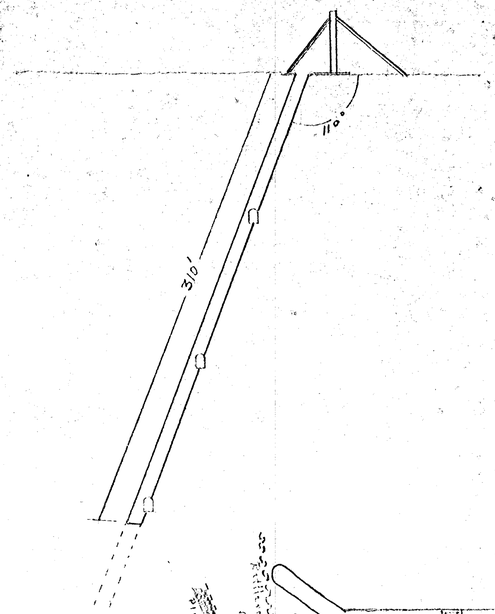
(This article does not include placer gold diggings since they are in a different class from the quartz mines.)

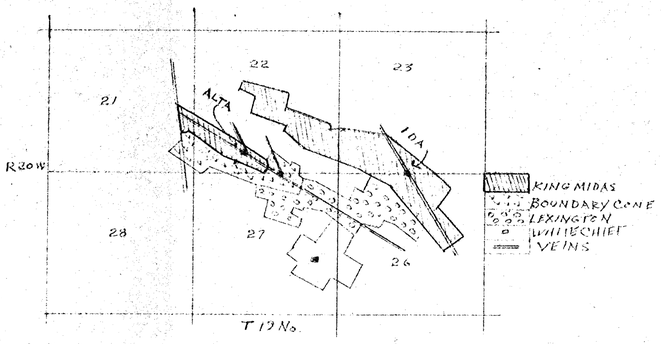
The greatest collection of gold mines, with the highest production in the state, however, is credited to the Oatman district, in the Black Hills of Mohave County. There the Tom Reed group, the Goldroad and the Great Eastern produced approximately $50 million between 1918 and the early 1930s—and the claim is made that they can produce yet more millions if the price of gold rises to the level of the international market. No such claim is made for most of the other once-big producers.

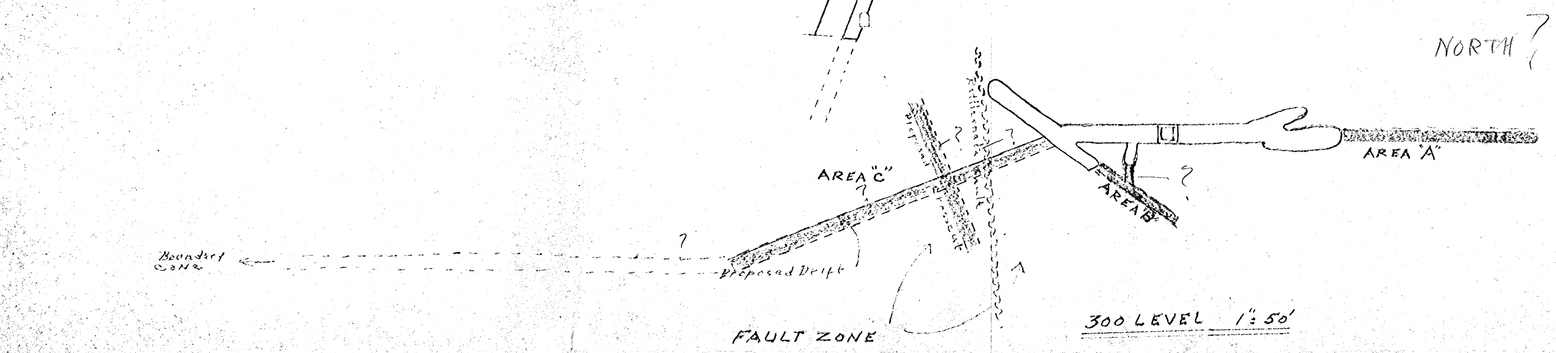
Stories of the discoveries and the histories of most of the desert gold mines are interesting—and I have been to all of them—but because I have prospected and camped in the area a good deal, and was well acquainted with John Aagard (everybody called him "Johnny"), who was one of the first at the strike, I shall relate the story of the Harquahala Mine.

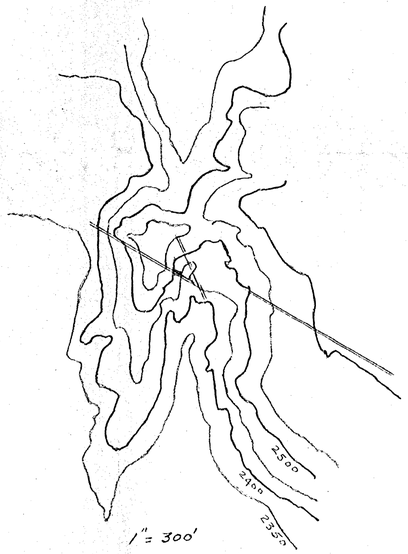
NUGGETS WORTH UP to $300 were picked off the ground, and slabs of gold as big as a man's hand were pried off the rocks when the Harquahala Mine was discovered in December 1888, in the Little Harquahala Mountains, about nine miles southwest of where Salome now stands.

For several years prior to this rich strike there had been a few mines opened and worked in that region. According to Will C. Barnes, Capt. Charles Harris and territorial Gov. Frederick Tritle brought a five-stamp mill from Prescott in 1886, and started the town of Harrisburg, where a post office was established Feb. 8, 1887, with the famous burro-



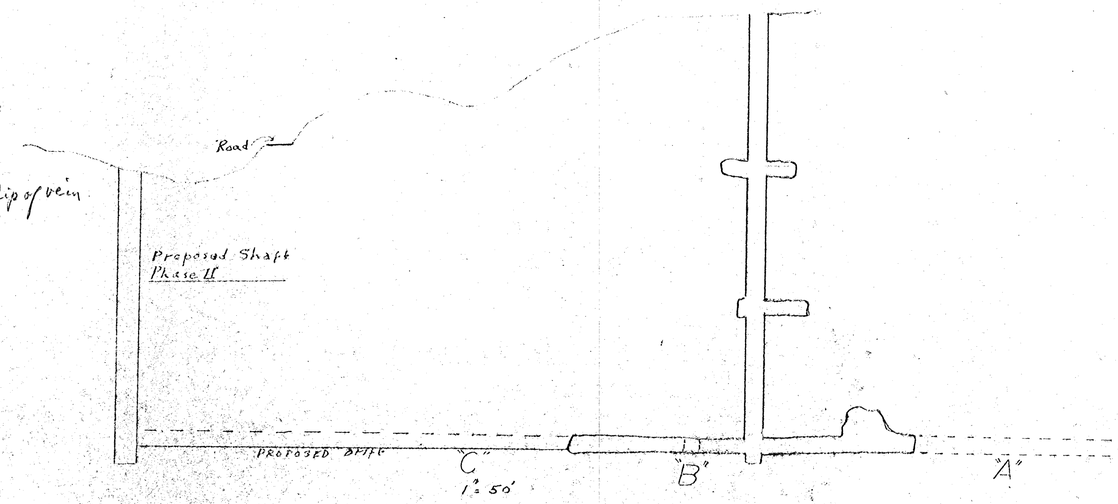






PROPOSED EXPLORATION

Size of Compressor
" Air line
" Water "
" rail
" Vent pipe
Timber
5X7 not 4½X7 drift
footage per shift
Larger claim map, showing individual claims
Location of shaft + strike + dip of vein



ALTA SHAFT

KING MIDAS MINES INC. OATMAN, ARIZ.

NOV. 1964

L.M.W.