SRO

The Big Five:
Aug 20, 1931
Gold Hill & Tonto mine
got by Toledo in 1927

Bo. 157 Howard Street
Spokane 4, Washington
October 3, 1962

Memorandum

To: Chief, Division of Field Operations

From: Acting Field Officer, Region I

Subject: Examination report
OME-6192 (Gold)
Paul James Hinkey
Hildamae Group of Claims
Boise County, Idaho

Paul James Hinkey proposes to explore for gold on the Hildamae group of claims by carrying out four unconnected work items as follows: (see map accompanying application)

1. Drive a tunnel about 300 feet long to explore an ore zone in the No. 1 tunnel, samples of which, said to be from the No. 1 tunnel dump, assayed 1.5 ounces gold per ton.

2. Drive a tunnel an unstated distance to explore an ore zone in the No. 5 tunnel said to assay up to $137.00 per ton.

3. Reopen caved shaft, or sink a new one adjacent to the old one, to a depth of 50 feet and drift from the bottom of the shaft a total of 100 feet. The drift would explore a zone 10 feet wide below "good panning ore" at the surface.

4. Reopen 100 feet of a caved tunnel to explore the continuation of "some good grade ore" reportedly shipped by former operators. On the application form, the total estimated cost is $14,500.00, but under item 7 the cost breakdown totals $15,094.40.

In a letter dated March 23, 1962, the applicant was advised that tunnels 3, 5, and 6, and surface exposures of the vein over the drifts proposed in items 1, 2, and 3 above should be accessible and open for inspection. In a letter to Zoldok dated July 10, 1962, the applicant advised the field office that tunnels 3, 5, and 6 were open. The property was visited July 20, 1962, in the company of the applicant and his brother-in-law, Bruce McKenzie. About five hours were spent on the property.

The claims are in secs. 2, 3, and 10, T. 7 N., R. 4 E., about 1-3/4 miles northwesterly of the town of Placerville, from which they may be reached in a 4-wheel drive vehicle over a poor mine road up Crooked Gulch and California Gulch.

Rocks in the area are coarsely crystalline quartz monzonite or granodiorite of the Idaho batholith that have been intruded by dikes of rhyolite porphyry. The dikes strike northeasterly. In the past, there has been considerable placer mining along Crooked Gulch and California Gulch to the northeast.

The first site visited was the "slide gulch", which is at the head of Crooked Gulch. Tunnel 5 was not accessible, but its timbers were exposed in the bottom of a long, wide bulldozer cut about 20 feet deep at its upper end. The cut is said to be on a vein and to have exposed a chimneylike shoot about 18 inches in diameter, from which the applicant reportedly took a sample that assayed $157.00 in gold. The end, sides, and back of the cut are made up of soft sericite with some pyrite and probably represent weathered granodiorite. No vein walls were observed. In the bottom of the trench is a shallow hand-dug pit from which the high grade sample is said to have come. At the side of the cut is a small pile of similar sericitic material said to be high grade ore from the pit in the cut. A sample from the pit walls assayed 0.01 ounce gold per ton, and one from the high grade ore pile assayed 0.94 ounce gold per ton. From the northeast end of the bulldozer cut, the floor of Crooked Gulch has a downward slope of about 35°-40° for about 150 feet, and the gulch widens rapidly with the descent. The gulch floor then flattens to not more than a 10°-15° gradient. The tunnel proposed to explore below any ore zone in the cut or No. 5 tunnel would have to be collared in the gulch, and because of the gradient change would have to be 300 or more feet long to have backs of 100 feet when it cut the ore zone. The first 200 feet of the tunnel would make only about 50 feet of backs.

Tunnel No. 3 was driven on a bearing of N. 58° W. It is said to be 170 feet long, but when examined it was found to be caved at 141 feet. At 72 feet, there is a dog hole 10 feet long bearing S. 42° W., and at 86 feet there is a drift 25 feet long bearing N. 2° W. The tunnel is in weathered coarse-grained, dark colored rock, probably granodiorite, and does not appear to be following any structure. Apparently it was driven as a crosscut to explore below very old shallow surface cuts not shown on the applicant's map, from which gold was panned. There was no apparent mineralized structure, only normal jointing, in the dog hole and drift.

Tunnel No. 1 was caved tight at the portal. The only evidence of its existence was the presence of a dump. The application mentions some oxidized ore from the tunnel being on the dump and assaying 1.5 ounce gold per ton. Hinkey indicated this material, some of which was sampled by the examiner; it assayed 0.09 ounce gold per ton. Another sample was taken from sericitic material indicated by the applicant to represent typical vein or vein wall rock. It assayed 0.04 ounce gold per ton.

According to Hinkey, tunnel No. 6 is also known as the Blaine tunnel. E. L. Jones, Jr., in "Lode Mining in the Quartzburg and Grimes Pass

Porphyry Belt, Boise Basin, Idaho," U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 640 (1917), p. 104, states that E. F. Blaine was superintendent of the Carroll-Driscoll claims (some of which are now known as the Hildamae group) and briefly describes a tunnel that is without doubt the applicant's tunnel No. 6. The applicant had opened the tunnel portal, but about 150 feet inside the tunnel was badly caved. The opening over the cave was barely large enough to crawl through, but as the caps were broken and the back was insecure it was not considered safe to do so.

Jones states, "The lower tunnel is driven in a course N. 60° W. for 1,450 feet. It intersects a shear zone 135 feet wide, which contains several sulfide veins in zones of more intense shearing. These veins trend from north to N. 30° E. and dip steeply east. The largest vein is near the hanging wall of the main shear zone, and its width ranges from 3 to 12 feet. The zone is further explored by a drift on its hanging wall and by short crosscuts driven to the main vein. The shear zone carries an abundant flow of water, which, with the softness of the vein matter, renders mining somewhat difficult." The vein matter, according to Jones, is "composed largely of soft white gouge which encloses the sulfides."

Alfred L. Anderson in "Geology and Ore Deposits of Boise Basin, Idaho," U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 944-C (1947), p. 313, says that the largest vein mentioned by Jones was opened for a distance of 300 feet.

The shaft the applicant proposes to reopen is fully caved. Alongside it an old trench has been bulldozed along the vein, but it is filled with debris and is so old it now looks more like a line of subsidence. The site of the final proposed job (item 4, page 1 of this report) was not visited.

In summary, gold occurs on the applicant's property in sericitized bands associated with pyrite. However, the 1.3 ounces gold per ton from the tunnel No. 1 dump could not be checked, and the location and size of the shoot from which it came are not known, which leaves little on which to justify his proposed tunnel in that area. Tunnel No. 2 is inaccessible and No. 3 shows nothing to support a project in that area. Tunnel No. 5 has been closed by a trench bulldozed over it. A small area about 18 inches in diameter in the trench, from which a sample is said to have assayed $137.00 per ton, was check sampled and assayed 0.01 ounce gold per ton. A sample of material beside the trench, said to be high grade ore, assayed 0.94 ounce gold per ton. A tunnel to explore beneath this area would have to be collared in the gulch and to get as much as 100 feet of backs would be at least 300 feet long. This is not justified by the single small chimney of ore, even if it exists. There is no evidence of how much drifting, if any, has been done from the winze the applicant proposes to clean out or how much, if any, ore was found, and without this information there is nothing to justify a new winze at this site. There is no evidence of specific and worth-while targets for exploration; therefore it is recommended that the application be denied without prejudice to the property.

If the No. 6 tunnel and the drifts therefrom were opened up so they could be inspected, it is possible that a program of exploration could be recommended unless the ore has been mined out. However, in view of Jones's description of the vein as being soft sericite and containing much water, it is probable that this would involve several hundred feet of costly rehabilitation. In a letter dated July 30, 1962, the applicant said, "Upon getting through that bad area in tunnel #6, Bruce McKenzie and (I) found the tunnel caved completely full at about the five hundred foot distance. I'm very disappointed and hate to spend any more money on what looks like a hopeless cause." A copy of this letter and my reply were sent you. Possibly he would be willing to demonstrate a specific target area by bulldozing trenches across the vein zone.

D. R. MacLaren

DRMacLaren:my
Distribution:
OMR(3)
Docket
MacLaren
SRO

EXTRA COPY
O. M. E
RECEIVED DEC 4 1961
DATE | IN... | CODE

Re: OME-6192 (Gold)
Paul James Hinkey
Hildamae Group of Claims
Boise County Idaho

Following is engineer's report requested in OME application:

REPORT ON THE HILDAMAE MINING CLAIM
By: A.A. McLeod Placerville, Idaho

The Hildamae is a mining claim located in the famous Boise Basin, Boise County, Idaho. It lies East of Quartzburg and just East of the Gold Hill Group of claims. It was originally located by Perry Fairchild and was called the Florence, but several years ago was relocated and called the Hildamae.

GEOLOGY:

I will not go into a discussion of the general geology of the district, as this subject is covered by government bulletins, but will confine myself to the geology of this claim and the immediate vicinity. The country rock is granite which is the oldest formation present. This was later intruded by a diorite porphyry, sometimes lpcally called bird's eye porphyry. Intruding these formations is a series of rhyolite porphyrys and basic dikes which were followed by the mineralized veins. I spent several years mapping and studying the geology in the Gold Hill mine and knowing the geology of that mine, I could not help see a striking resemblance. In the Gold Hill there are two rhyolite dikes with a diorite dike between, similar to conditions in tunnel #I (see map attatched) on this claim. There is a vein to the north of these dikes which is similar to conditions at the Gold Hill mine.

It is very likely that vein marked 'slide ledge' on the map corresponds to the Gold Hill vein and is probably the extension of said ledge or vein, which produced millions of dollars in Gold above the 400' level in that mine. The ledge or vein in tunnel #3 (see map) on which most of the work has been done would be an extension of the Oregon vein in the Gold Hill group, or a similar vein. There are a series of veins to the South of the Gold Hill vein at Quartzburg and in the Mayflower group further West which are similar in character to this vein, heavy 'talc' (white iron) or pyrite which carry Gold but not in the free state. They what is termed 'base ores'.

PROSPECTING:

The prospecting or development work on this claim consists chiefly of three tunnels run from the surface marked #I, #2, #3 (see map attached). Tunnel #I does not cut any vein of prominance but ~~serves~~ serves to give a good idea of the geology. It is run on a course N54°W, a distance of about 170'. It does not contain any ore of commercial value.

Tunnel #2, about 30 to 40' lower in elevation than #I, and

Re: OME-6192 (Gold)
Paul James Hinkey
Hildamae Group of Claims
Boise County Idaho

Page 2 of 'Report on the Hildamae Mining Claim'

is run on a course about N60°W a distance of about 210'. It crosscuts vein #2 and at the time of my first visit to the claim, I took samples across the vein at this point but they did not show any values in Gold or Silver. In the face of this tunnel there a porphyry dike that is reported to pan a little Gold.

Tunnel #3 is driven on a course N40°E to N45°E and from the portal to where it connects with tunnel #2 is about 270', and is driven as a drift on vein #2 (see map). At the time of my last visit in Feb. 1934, it was open from where it connects with tunnel #2 to about 60' to the southwest. I did not sample any of this vein and would not attempt to state whether or not there is any ore of commercial grade. The rest of the tunnel was caved full and not open to inspection at any other place except at the portal.

CONCLUSION:

There are two veins on this claim, either of which might produce commercial ore marked #1 and #2 (see map). I stated under my discussion of geology that vein #1 could be an extension of the Gold Hill vein and that # 2 could be an extension of the Oregon vein. Veins similar to vein #2 are present in several places to the South of the Gold Hill but have never been mined to any extent anywhere in the District and little is known of what merits they possess. When tunnel #3 was driven several years ago, there was encountered a brown, highly oxidized rock that pans considerable free Gold. This rock was found on the dump after the work had been done and after the tunnel had caved in, so that the exact location where it came from is not known. To find this rock or rock similar in character is the object of the work being done at present. When this is again encountered, it would be well to do enough work to determine whether it comes from the vein #2 or is coming from a vein with a more Westerly course and making a junction with vein #2. It either comes from such a vein or is an ore sheet in vein #2.

Vein #1 , locally called the 'slide ledge', is apparently the extension of the Gold Hill vein or at least a parallel vein. To the Northeast of this claim it was mined on the surface similar to a placer operation, but the due to the heavy clay or gouge, it had to be tramped and the clay dissolved before letting it run through the sluice box. Then further to the Southwest of where this mining was done, on an adjoining claim there is a tunnel which lines up fairly well to be on this vein, Between these two - a distance of 500 or 600'- there has been no prospecting that has exposed the vein and most of this distance would be on the H ildamae claim. This would be a good place to prospect for ore by trenching where

Re: OME-6192 (Gold)
Paul James Hinkey
Hildamae Group of Claims
Boise County Idaho

Page 3 of 'Report' on the Hildamae Mining Claim

the subsoil is not too deep.

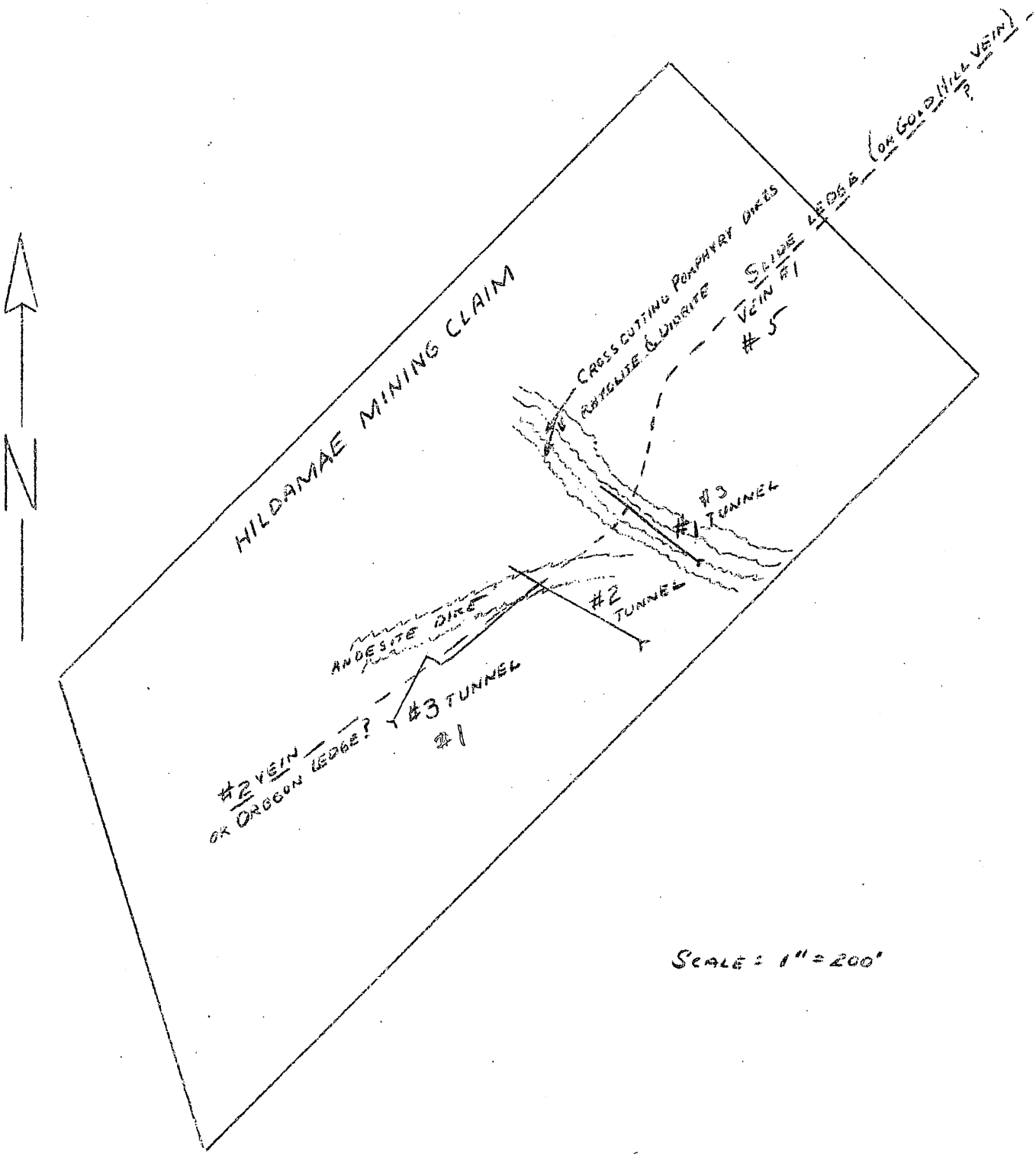
I would say the claim, from the work done and the geologic features, has considerable merit and with some additional prospecting is very likely to produce some ore of commercial value. With the much increased value of Gold, there may be a demand for ground by those holding adjoining claims.

A.A. McLeod

Placerville, Idaho

Re: OME-6192 (Gold)
Paul James Hinkey
Hildamae Group of Claims
Boise County Idaho

MAP for illustrating REPORT ON THE HILDAMAE MINING CLAIM



Re: OME-6192 (Gold)
Paul James Hinkey
Hildamae Group Of Claims
Boise County Idaho

Explanatory notes regarding 'Hildamae Mining Claim Report':

Report prepared in early 1930s .
Engineer employed at adjacent Gold Hill property at time.
C.E.Fairchild and Roy Porter owners of Hildamae then.
The original report copied by myself in 1952, the original being lent to a mining man by name of Fergusen, who in turn failed to return. As a result the accompanying 'Report' is a copy of my 1952 copy.
I am including a map of my own making as the one referred to in report was never in my possession.
The tunnel numbers do not correspond to one shown in maps already in your possession.
Subsequent to 1950, the Hildamae was expanded to the group of five claims shown in application. Also at this time I purchased Mr Fairchild's and Mr. Porter's interests as they felt that due to age reasons they would no longer be able to handle the physical work necessary on property.
Under 'Geology' Mr. McLeod speaks of the 'slide ledge' and the one he calls the 'Oregon' as being two separate ledges. I disagree with him as my experience on the property has proved to me that this is but one ledge, being offset somewhat by crosscutting porphyry dikes. There is another ledge to Southeast just off these claims which I would refer to as the 'Oregon' ledge.
Mr. McLeod the engineer does not mention any thing about a formation showing on the surface above the junction of tunnels #2 and#3 which my former partners referred to as the 'blowout'. This 'blowout' consists of cemented angular fragments of dike material. My former partners reporting to me that the cementing material assayed $16.00 /ton. It is an highly oxidised, brown, syrupy looking material. I mentioned this 'blowout' inasmuch as the Gold Hill recovered most of their values at depth from such a seamed up porphyry.
Mr.McLeod mentioned in report that he believed that commercial ore would be found on this claim. This was born out by our experience in 1950 by shipping about 50 tons of ore.
The heavilly oxidized parts of ledge are apparently of an older intrusion while the sulphided portions are what geologists refer to as tertiary intrusions. It is reported that in the district there are as many as four different age mineral depositions in some of the ledges. In some cases Gold was present in varying amounts in all four.