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Arizona Department of Mines and Mineral Resources Mining Collection

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ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND MINERAL RESOURCES AZMILS DATA

PRIMARY NAME: JESSE BENTON MINE

ALTERNATE NAMES:

CASHIER MS 3081
ARIZONA WESTERN MINES INC.
OWL
PEARL E.
EL CAPITAN
SILVER HOWARD GROUP
BUCKHORN
DOLORES
APACHE GROUP
OLD EAGLE PROJECT
MORAJESKI PROPERTY

PINAL COUNTY MILS NUMBER: 629

LOCATION: TOWNSHIP 10 S RANGE 12 E SECTION 1 QUARTER NE
LATITUDE: N 32DEG 35MIN 50SEC LONGITUDE: W 111DEG 03MIN 28SEC
TOPO MAP NAME: TORTOLITA MTS - 15 MIN

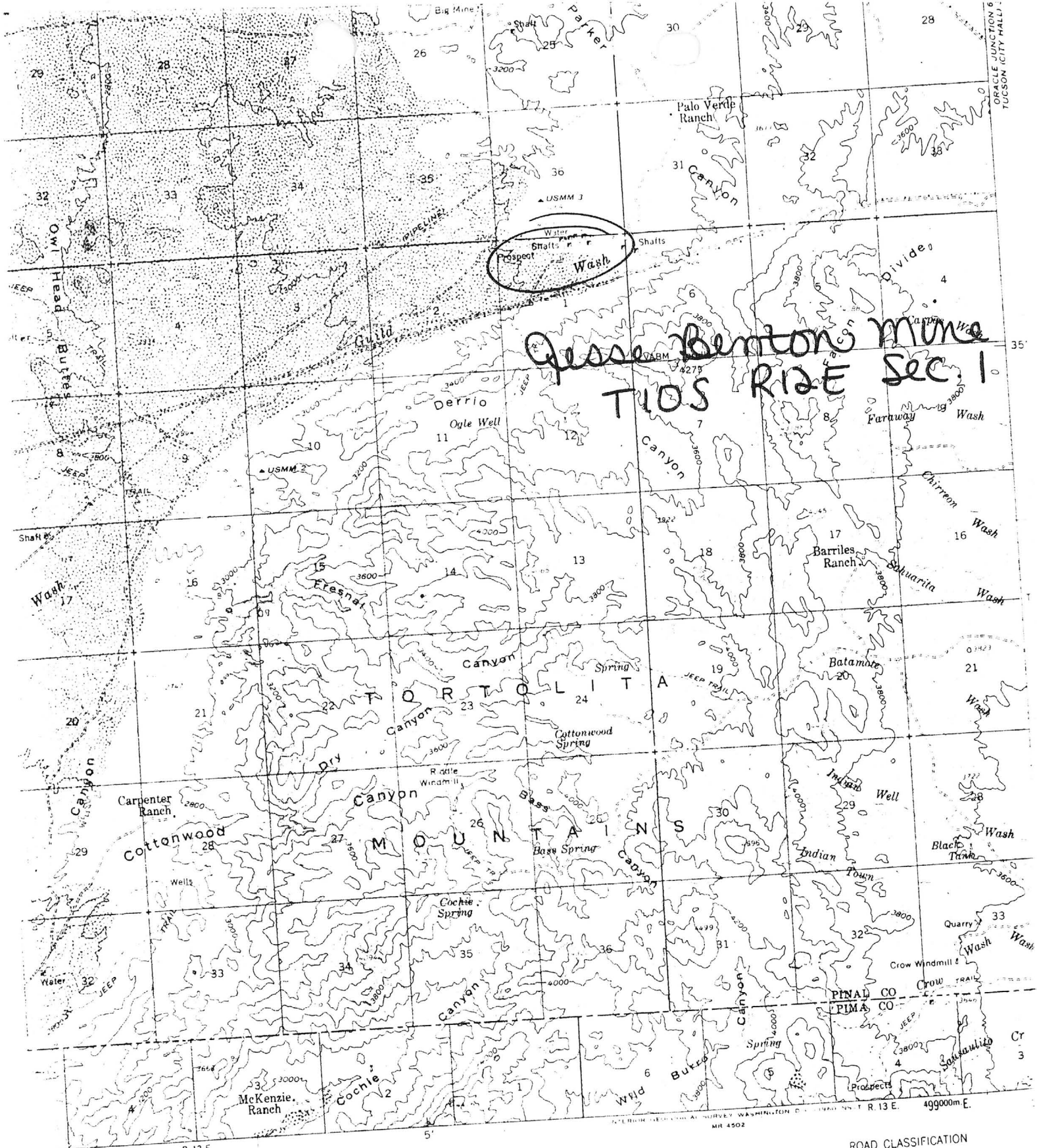
CURRENT STATUS: PAST PRODUCER

COMMODITY:

GOLD
SILVER
COPPER SULFIDE
COPPER OXIDE
LEAD

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

BLM MINING DISTRICT SHEETS 616 & 617
BARTER, CHARLES F., GEOLOGY OF THE OWL HEAD
MINING IDST. PINAL CO., AZ. M.S. U OF A 1962
AZ. BUR. GEO. & MIN. TECH: MIN. MAP NOTES
ADMMR JESSE BENTON MINE FILE



(CORTARO) R 12 E

SCALE 1:62500



CONTOUR INTERVAL 40 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Medium-duty ——— Light-duty
Unimproved dirt
□ U.S. Route ○ State Route

TORTOLITA MTS., AF
N3230 W11100715

157
1959

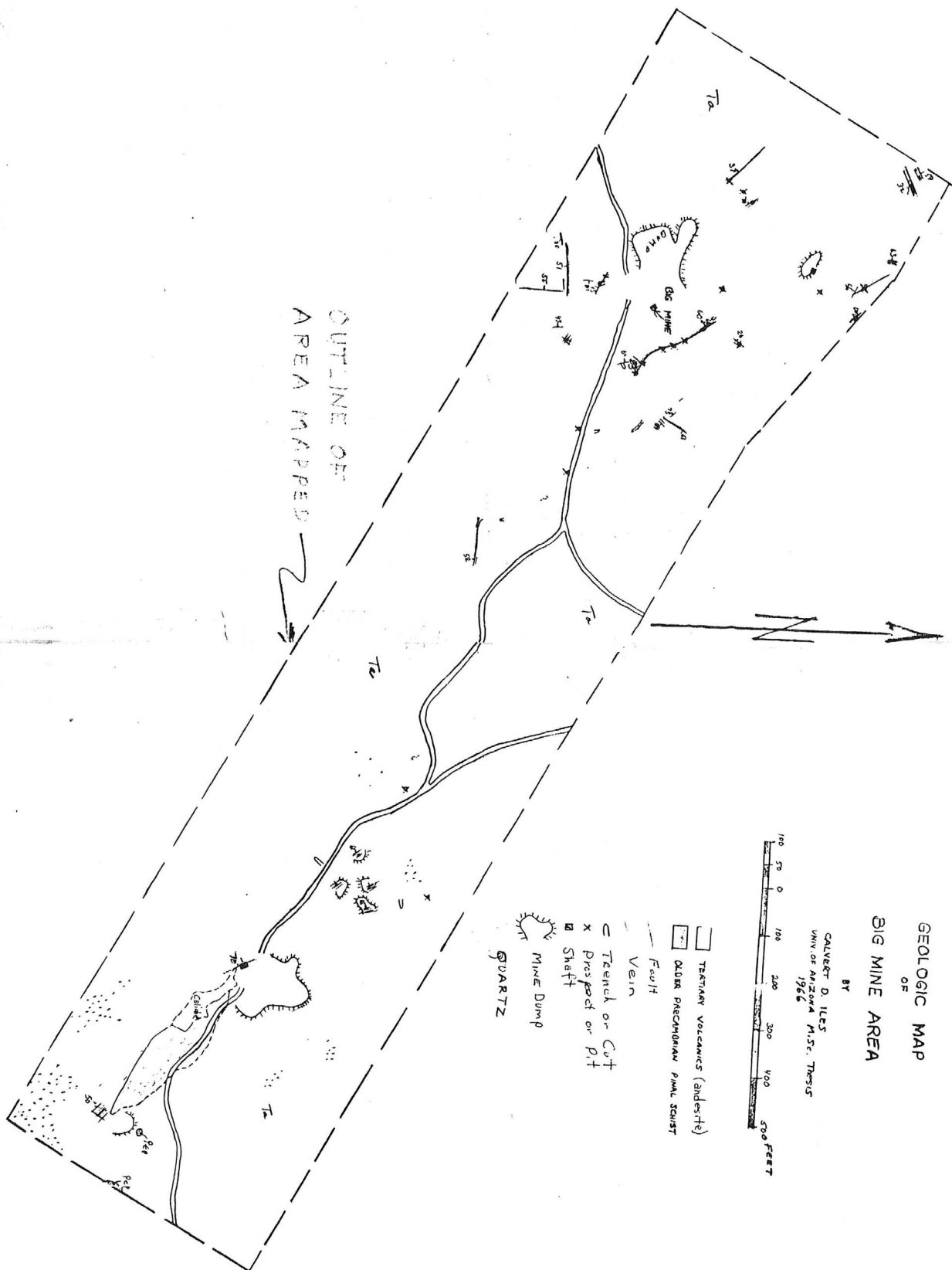
CONFORMS WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
AS SURVEYED BY DENVER 25, COLORADO OR WASHINGTON 25, D.C.
TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

GEOLOGIC MAP OF BIG MINE AREA

BY
CALVERT D. ILES
UNIV. OF ARIZONA M.S.C. THESIS
1966



- TERTIARY VOLCANICS (andesite)
- OLDER PRECAMBRIAN PINK SCHIST
- Fault
- Vein
- Trench or Cut
- Prospect or Pit
- Shaft
- Mine Dump
- QUARTZ



JESSE BENTON MINE

PINAL COUNTY
OWL HEAD DISTRICT
T10S R12E Sec. 1

MILS Pinal County Index #629

AKA: Arizona Western Mining, Cashier M S 3081, Owl, Pearl E., El Capitan,
Buckhorn, Dolores, Old Eagle Project, Morajeski Property, Silver Hoard Group

BLM Mining District Sheets 616, 617

Barter, Charles F., "Geology of the Owl Head Mining District, Pinal County" 1962
(Geology File)

~~See: Arizona Western Mines, Inc. (file)~~


Tortolita Mts. 15' Topo (included in file)

JESSE BENTON MINE

PINAL

William Ewing called that he had a small mill at the Old Eagle mine SW of the Jesse Benton mine in S2, T10S, R12E. Also that he had obtained the Chutun Vaya and other claims in Chutun Vaya pass W of Mildred Peak in S3, T20S, R7E. His company, Arizona Western Mines, also controls claims in the Tres Amigos area S of Ruby. GWI WR 11/8/74


PAY DIRT for January 27, 1975


Wp+m 5/75


Wp+m
7/76

GWI WR 6/11/79 - Bill Ewing says that he will produce 3 tons of iron sand concentrate from his Apache Iron deposit, will be used in sand blasting.
7/10/79 a.p.

RH

EAGLE GOLD MINE

Pinal County

Section 1, T10S, R12E

See: EWING, Wm (card)

MG WR 2/5/80: Mr. William R. Ewing (P.O. Box 7001, Tucson Arizona, mobile phone 624-6646, unit 0918) says he plans to re-open shaft of the Eagle Gold Mine in Section 1, T10S, R12E, in Pinal County.

JHJ 1/8/81 Mr. Ewing reported he has a small gravity mill erected at his Eagle Mine. It is used for test purposes on other ores. However, he stated he is cleaning out an existing shaft. Mr. Ewing is still working with black sands.

3/20/80

ARIZONA WESTERN MINES INC.

PINAL

(Sec 1, T10S, R12E & Sec 36 T8, R12E)

Arizona Western Mines, Inc. - Owl Heads Div. (9S 12E S. 36; 10S, S. 1) was visited. Many shafts and bulldozer cuts were developed in Precambrian granite and schist with quartz veins. Sulfide minerals once existed in the rock but all is oxidized now. No recognizable metallic minerals were seen on the dumps. A library search will be conducted to determine the background and interest that this property held. The shafts now are rigged with water pumps to furnish a supply of water to cattle. REL WR 8/21/73

G. Burkhardt was in office to report that William Ewing was mining and milling at his Arizona Western Mines, Tortolita Mt. property. A cement mixer was used for solvent extraction. GWI WR 6/23/75

JESSE BENTON MINE

PINAL COUNTY

Visited Apache Mine & vicinity. No activity noted. FTJ WR 7-25-69

Mr. William Ewing of Tucson (Arizona Western Mining Co.) has finished staking out several claims at the company holdings (Jesse Benton Cons. Mining Co.) old holdings, at the present time sampling is being done. Note: The Jesse Benton Co. operated the property before the turn of the century. GWI QR 9-1969

Mr. Willaim Ewing called re work at Jesse Benton mine. Has uncovered two new veins. GWI WR 1-3-70

Arizona Western Development have been working at the old Jesse Benton Consolidated property in the Owl Head district. They have been planning on shipping a small amount of ore to Inspiration. They report find some high grade ore. GWI QR 2-27-70

The Arizona Western Development Co. (Wm. Ewing) shipped a truckload of ore from the Apache Mine (Jesse Benton) in the Owl Head district to Inspiration. GWI QR 4-1-70

Phone call from William Ewing, Arizona Western Development Co. Staking claims in the Owl Head district. 32 - Apache & 16 - Jesse Benton. GWI WR 5-16-70

Desultory work continues in the Owl Head district. Occasionally one of the large exploration companies expresses an interest. The Arizona Western Development Co. (Wm. Ewing) is prospecting in the northern Totolita Mountains. They hold the Old Apache & Jesse Benton Mines. GWI QR 4-1-71

Mr. Wm. Ewing's Arizona Western Development Co. is still exploring in the Owl Head area. Continental Oil Co. is reported to be doing exploration work near by. GWI QR 6-30-71

Big Mine & Shaft (9S12E S. 25, 26) was visited. The mine is inactive now, but consisted of a two compartment shaft and has an extensive dump. No recognizable mineralization was noted on the dump. The "mine" now has a gasoline engine pump erected on it which provides a source of water for cattle. The shaft to the south of the mine was developed on a mineralized structure which shows copper oxides in andesite. It is now collapsed and filled with debris. REL WR 8/21/73

Received from Mr. Chester F. Millar of C. F. Millar Ltd. Vancouver B.C.

ARIZONA WESTERN MINES, Inc.

K
gm

P. O. BOX 7001

TUCSON, ARIZONA 85713

(602)  622-0104

December 15, 1970

C. F. Millar, Limited
1758 W. 8th Avenue
Vancouver 9, B. C.
Canada

Att: Mr. P. Fecteau

Dear Sir;

We are in receipt of your inquiry regarding our Owl Heads mining claims. Enclosed are some plats and other data that should give you some idea of our area and formation conditions. We have included a copy of an old news article that is the sole record of the mining activity in early days.

Although two papers have been prepared by U. of A. graduating students, vis., Charles Barter, (1962) and Don Calvert Iles, (1967) dealing with the geology of that part of the Owl Heads Mining District, our immediate area was only touched on briefly except for the Big Mine area just north of the Jesse Benton Group. That article and Mr. B. O. Pickard's report along with court-house research, helped us to successfully cover the areas of most important mineralization.

The only area not mentioned in any of the above papers is that we call the Big Flo Group. We have been unable to determine the origin of that extensive fault zone intrusive (?) but the nature of the rock and the apparent trend in the direction of the massive San Manuel Fracture, (N/E-S/W) leads us to believe that this may be covering a porphyry ore body although no copper or iron sulfides are present at the surface. We are assuming the rock material is a quartz-monzonite, with numerous "blocks" of altered granitic zones housing small siliceous vein structures carrying to about 0.60% copper.

We have no idea of the drill depth necessary to encounter sulfides so it may be that 300' could be inadequate although one geologist did advise us that it could very well be between 100' and 200'.

DEPARTMENT OF MINERAL RESOURCES

STATE OF ARIZONA FIELD ENGINEERS REPORT

Mine Arizona Western Mining Company

Date December 7, 1973

District Owl Head (Pinal Co.)

Engineer R. E. Lehner

Subject: Field Visit

Location: T 10 S, R 12 E, Sec. 1, Pinal Co., Tottolita Mtns.

Owner: Wm. R. Ewing
P.O. Box 7001
Tucson, Arizona

Former Names: Jesse Benton Mine; Apache Mines; Morajeski Mines; Silver Hoard Group.

Brief History: From the files of the Ariz. Pioneer Historical Society Museum, Tucson, Ariz. the ARIZONA WEEKLY ENTERPRISE dated July 29, 1882 and published in Florence a report is made on the various workings of the mine, the stockpiling of silver ore, and a description of a five stamp mill 3 miles west of the mine that was being assembled. Apparently \$500,000 worth of silver ore was shipped between 1882 and 1892 when operations were closed down and the promoters moved to Vekol. Between 1892 and 1894 a Capt. Jeffords gave 20 claims to Count Morajeski who held them until 1912. The property at that time was referred to as the Apache mine by Byron O. Pickard, State Engineer of mines (Mining Science, vol. 65, 1912, pp 473, 475.) Between 1912 and 1917 the property evidently changed hands because a letter in the Arizona Bureau Mines files by B.S. Butler makes reference to the fact that the Owl Head Mining Company which acquired the Apache Mine has been inactive since 1917. An article in the ARIZONA BLADE TRIBUNE, published in Florence and dated May 5, 1923 states that the property came under litigation at some unknown point in time. That the Zekendorfs of Tucson kept up assessment work for several years, then abandoned it; that later a Wm. Clark (Florence) filed on it and had an agreement with Col. Weedon who did much development work on the property that then became known as the SILVER HOARD GROUP. Later Clark could no longer keep up assessment work and Guild Bros. acquired it and did a lot of development work, stockpiling silver ore dumps. Some legal dispute over property forced them to shut down their work and go elsewhere in 1923. Since 1923 until the present owner (Arizona Western Mines - Wm. Ewing) acquired the property by staking claims in 1969, there is no reported mining activity in the area. Even since 1969 to the present time Ewing has not done any work in the area. Most of the many shafts have water in them and water pumps have been installed in some to provide water for cattle. Ewing's stated intention when he got the property was to dewater the shafts, drill property, and rework the muck piles for silver.

Geology and Mineralization: The mineralization occurs in a basic dike which cuts the Precambrian granite comprising most of the area and in associated shears and fissures probably related to the emplacement of the dike. Within the dike zone copper oxides are present and these are associated with iron and manganese oxides. In the structurally related fissures it is here where most of the silver values occurred along with some values in gold. They are secondary minerals that enriched near the surface and most of the workings in the area are shallow and above the water table. After the rich payable pockets of ore were scratched and mined out the remaining minerals could not support any further mining.

References: (1) See above file references of newspaper articles under History.
(2) Univ. of Ariz. Thesis - C.F. Barter, 1962
(3) " " " " - C.D. Iles, 1967
(4) B.O. Pickard, (1912) Mining Science, vol. 65, pp 473-75.

DEPARTMENT OF MINERAL RESOURCES

STATE OF ARIZONA FIELD ENGINEERS REPORT

Mine Big Mine

Date November 30, 1973

District Owlhead

Engineer R.E. Lehner

Subject: Mine Visit

Location: T 9 S, R 12 E, Secs. 26, 25 (34 miles N. of Tucson)

Topography: Relatively flat to gently undulating desert land surrounding the various hills which have relief of several hundred feet.

Geology & Mineralization: In the area of the Big Mine nearly all mineralization is associated with a northwest trending normal fault zone which strikes N 35° W and has a variable dip which averages about 65° to the southwest. The surface trace of the fault is about 100 feet east of the collar of the Big Mine shaft. The shaft is a vertical two-compartment shaft that is estimated to be about 300-400 feet deep, and it was located west of the fault in order to intersect the westward-dipping mineralized fault at depth. The shaft now bears water and a windmill and gasoline pump are now set up on the shaft to provide water for cattle.

The surface rocks in the general mine area consist of Tertiary (?) andesites which rest upon Precambrian schist as indicated from the regional geology. The rock material on the dump consists largely of Precambrian schist which indicates that the andesite is not very thick in this area. The schist appears fresh and devoid of mineralization, and all indications are that there was never any production from this venture. The mineralization along the trace of the fault in the andesite consists largely of barite, with some copper oxides, and an occasional bleb of galena.

Approximately 1700 feet southeast of the Big Mine along the general projection of the fault structure are other significant mine workings. Here a two-compartment inclined shaft follows the mineralized fault structure down dip at 70° to the west. The fault at this point strikes at 30° W. The shaft is caved and filled with trash debris. The fault zone is approximately 6 feet wide and is filled with caliche. Some visible mineralization at this shaft consists of malachite and chrysocolla.

In summary, the potential for developing commercial quantities of base metals from this fault structure which controls the mineralization appears to be remote.

- References:
- (1) Univ. of Ariz. thesis - Chas. F. Barter, 1962;
 - (2) " " " " - Calvert D. Iles, 1967.
 - (3) Tortolita Mtns., 15' topographic quadrangle map.

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF MINERAL RESOURCES
Mineral Building, Fairgrounds
Phoenix, Arizona

Received
7-18-69

1. Information from: Mine Visit
Address: _____
2. Mine: Apache 3. No. of Claims - Patented none
Unpatented 4# 1
4. Location: Owl Head District One mile southwest of the Palo Verde Ranch.
36 9S 12E
5. Sec 1 10S Tp _____ Range 12E 6. Mining District Owl Head
7. Owner: Wm. Ewing (*E.W. - WR 8/23/69*
Del. to Arizona Dept. of Mineral Resources)
8. Address: P. O. Box 7001 Tucson, also 1925 West Grant Road.
9. Operating Co.: _____
10. Address: _____
11. President: _____ 12. Gen. Mgr.: _____
13. Principal Metals: _____ 14. No. Employed: _____
15. Mill, Type & Capacity: _____
16. Present Operations: (a) Down ☐ (b) Assessment work ☐ (c) Exploration ☒
(d) Production ☐ (e) Rate _____ tpd.
17. New Work Planned: Sampling and other evaluation work.

18. Misc. Notes: The original claim known as the Jesse Benton. The mine was
owned by Capt. Jeffords in the 80's. A patent survey was supposed to have
been made but never granted.

Date: 4-25-69

[Signature]
(Signature)

(Field Engineer)

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF MINERAL RESOURCES
Mineral Building, Fairgrounds
Phoenix, Arizona

1. Information from: W.R. Ewing & Personal visit
Address: Arizona Western Development Co. Box 7001 Tucson.
2. Mine: Apache 3. No. of Claims - Patented _____
Unpatented 8
4. Location: 2 miles west of Florence Highway at Cross Triangle Ranch.
5. Sec. 19 Tp. 8S Range R12E 6. Mining District Owl Head.
7. Owner: W.R. Ewing.
8. Address: _____
9. Operating Co.: _____
10. Address: _____
11. President: _____ 12. Gen. Mgr.: _____
13. Principal Metals: Ag 14. No. Employed: _____
15. Mill, Type & Capacity: _____
16. Present Operations: (a) Down ☐ (b) Assessment work ☐ (c) Exploration ☒
(d) Production ☐ (e) Rate _____ tpd.
17. New Work Planned: Evaluation of property
18. Misc. Notes: Mine operated late 70's early 80's owned by
Capt Jeffords at one time

Date: 4-24-69

Geo. J. ...
(Signature)

(Field Engineer)

*GENERAL REFERENCE

REFERENCE 1 F1 < ADGMT-UGM F DATA

REFERENCE 2 F2 < ADMR JESSE DENTON MINE FILE

REFERENCE 3 F3 < NORMAN BANKS, CRIB ENTRY, SEPTEMBER, 1976.

REFERENCE 4 F4 < USGS MAP MF-864, 1977

MILS# 609

U.S. CRIB-SITE FORM

RECORD IDENTIFICATION

RECORD NUMBER B10 < >

REPORT DATE G1 < 8,2,8,0,4 >

REPORTER(SUPERVISOR) G2 < GERT, DON E. >

REPORTER AFFILIATION G5 < ADGMT >

SYNONYMS A11 < ARIZONA WESTERN MINING, APACHE >

RECORD TYPE B20 < X,1,M >

INFORMATION SOURCE B30 < 1,2 >

DEPOSIT NUMBER B40 < >

FILE LINK IDENT. B50 < USPH-0040210561 >

(last, first, middle initial)

(last, first, middle initial)

SITE NAME A10 < JESSE DENTON MINE >

LOCATION

MINING DISTRICT/AREA A30 < OWL HEAD DISTRICT >

COUNTY A60 < PINAL >

PHYSIOGRAPHIC PROV A63 < 1,2 >

RAINAGE AREA A62 < 150,50303, >

QUADRANGLE NAME A90 < TORTOLITA >

SECOND QUAD NAME A92 < >

ELEVATION A107 < 3,300,0,FT >

STATE A50 < AZ >

COUNTRY A40 < U.S. >

LAND STATUS A64 < 0,1, >

QUADRANGLE SCALE A100 < 6,2,5,90 >

SECOND QUAD SCALE A91 < >

JTM

ORTHING A120 < 3,6,0,6,0,0 >

ASTING A130 < 4,9,4,7,0,0 >

ONE NUMBER A110 < 1,1,2 >

*ACCURACY

ACCURATE ACC (circle)

ESTIMATED EST < >

GEODETTIC

LATITUDE A70 < 3,2-35-55,N >

LONGITUDE A80 < 1,1,1-0,3-23,W >

ADASTRAL

OWNSHIP(S) A77 < 0,1,0,5, >

SECTION(S) A79 < 1 >

SECTION FRACTION(S) A76 < NE OF NW >

MERIDIAN(S) A81 < GILA AND SALT RIVER >

RANGE(S) A78 < 0,1,2,E, >

POSITION FROM NEAREST PROMINENT LOCALITY A82 < 1 MILE NW OF TORTILLA BUTTE, ELEVATION 4223, IN GILBO WASH >

LOCATION COMMENTS A83 < CENTER OF GROUP OF ADITS >

The following was taken from the files of the Arizona Pioneer Historical Society Museum, Tucson, Arizona.

ARIZONA WEEKLY ENTERPRISE

Published every Saturday at Florence, Pinal County, Arizona, A. T.

Editor and Proprietor--Thomas F. Weedon

July 29, 1882

"JESSE BENTON CONSOLIDATED"

A Trip To The Company Mines And Mill.

In company with Messrs P. R. Brady, J. D. Walker and Isaac D. Smith, the editor of the Enterprise visited the Owl Heads Mining District last week and for three days enjoyed the splendid hospitality of Superintendent W. H. Merritt of the Jesse Benton Consolidated. As a matter of course, our natural inquisitiveness, developed and enlarged by years of reportorial work led us to a n investigation of the mines of the camp and other matters we fancied would be of interest to the fifty million readers of the Enterprise.

Topographically

The Owl Heads District

is dissimilar to any we ever saw. It lies on a slightly undulating mesa, trending north from the base of the Tortolita Mountains and we experienced no difficulty in driving over any portion of the claims in a two horse wagon. The general formation is granite and porphyry, and ledges, or at least a majority of them run east and west parallel with the Tortolita range, and though cropping but slightly are clearly defined and easily traced. They pitch south toward the mountains at an angle of from thirty to fifty degrees and are broken somewhat by dikes that have been interjected at different periods, but straighten up as they go down. The mountains lying to the south are slate lying on granite base and show no mineral except a few traces of copper. The district takes it's name from five small buttes which mark the western boundary. To the unpoetic observer, they resemble only the innumerable and fantastically fashioned columns of stone with which nature has embellished the foothills and the mountains of Arizona. But the fanciful aborigines saw in them a resemblance to the head of the lord of Wisdom,

and hence gave them the name Chew-Too A-Maw (Owl Heads.) The first mine we explored was the

JESSE BRITTON

We entered an encline shaft which had been driven down on the porphyry foot wall near the west end of the claim. We proceeded to a depth of fifty feet, noting as we descended an eight inch streak of free milling chlorite ore lying on the foot wall. Fifty feet from the surface, we entered a level driven west on the foot wall to distance of forty feet showing all the way the pay streak we had observed in coming down the shaft. At some points in this drift the pay streak widens out to ten or twelve inches. Retracing our steps to the face of the level, we entered another one directly opposite and extending east sixty feet. Here we found the same pay streak showing the entire length of the drift, except at one point where the dike had forced it out. Returning to the face of the drift we descended the shaft to the bottom, a distance of 75 feet from the surface and found a continuation of the pay ore. The hanging wall is granite and the width of the vein matter is several feet. Returning from this point to the surface, we examined the dump and found about 40 tons of ore, the mill average of which is three hundred dollars per ton. Just east of this shaft is an open cut extending along the ledge. It is 20 feet long, six feet wide and 12 feet deep and has yielded about 30 ton of ore as good in grade and the same in character as that on the dump at the shaft. Just west of the shaft is an open cut on the ledge 95 feet long, 12 feet deep and about 4 feet wide. From this a large quantity of rich chloride ore has been extracted. Near the center of the claim is an enclined shaft running down on the foot wall to a depth of about 70 feet and cross cut at a depth of about 60 feet. It shows a greater breadth of vein matter than the west shaft and the ore occurs in bunches scattered through the vein. Some of the ore from the shaft has been shipped but a considerable amount of high grade rock remains on the dump. On the east end of the claim another encline shaft goes down on the foot wall to a depth of eighty feet, but we did not explore it owing to a lack of time. It shows some fine

ore on the dump, but most of the metal taken out at this point has been shipped and sold for something over \$300.00 per ton. Besides the developments mentioned there are numerous open cuts along the surface of the ledge and all show ore. The next best property belonging to the company, so far as could be judged by the meagre developments is

THE DESERT

Lying about three miles west of the Benton. Here we found an enclined shaft 25 feet deep, passing down between the walls and showing a pay streak from two to two and a half feet wide. Like those of the Benton the walls are porphyry and granite. The dump shows about 40 tons of high grade ore. The ledge has been cut into at several points and shows good mineral in each opening. From this claim we drove to the

EAGLE

A property lying about half way between the Benton and the Desert and owned by the same company. It is a gold Lead in granite, and has been prospected to a depth of 22 feet by an enclined shaft in which there is a 12 inch pay streak assaying one hundred dollars in gold to the ton and carrying some silver. There are 12 tons of ore on the dump. The company own several other properties but we did not have time to examine them, Leaving the Benton group we visited

THE MILL

The Jesse Benton Mill stands in a canyon at the base of the Tortolitas and about three and a half miles west of the Jesse Benton Mine. A splendid hard road of gradual decent leads from the latter to the mill. The mill site could not have been better adapted to the purpose had it been designed especially for that use. It is located on a solid rock bluff which has been blasted down in the form of terraces and the machinery so arranged that the ore works down from the rock crusher to the settler without being handled more than once. The machinery consists of five 700 pound stamps, two five foot pans, one eight foot settler, one three foot clean-up pan, a rock crusher, a thrity horse power engine, a large steam pump with boiler capacity to furnish more steam than will be needed. The machinery was all made at

Becket & McDowell's, New York, and is handsomely finished. The mill will be completed by the 15th of next month and ready for business. It is well constructed and arranged in every particular, and we believe that we may safely pronounce it the most complete and perfect five stamp mill in Arizona. We may also add that owing to Supt. Merritt's economical wise management, the mill has cost less than any like institution we know of. The water question, which at one time was a doubtful one, has been settled. A well, sunk about sixty feet south of the mill tapped a remarkably strong vein of water at a depth of 25 feet. The water stands ten feet deep in the well and cannot be lowered by the force pump. But as an extra precaution the water from the mill will be saved and used over. The loss will be about 33 1/3 percent. All the flats surrounding the mill are covered with a good growth of mesquite and palo verde timber and will furnish an abundant supply of wood.

At the present mine developments in Arizona has hardly commenced, yet her dividends have turned the drift of capital this way. Every new bullion producer adds momentum to it and a few years hence the volume of capital seeking investment here will be so great as to create a demand for every grade of mining property. Those who have the courage and patience to stand by their properties are certain to see fruition of their hopes. Mining now is not the wild gambling business it was in the palmy days of the Comstocks, but has settled down to a regular legitimate industry and men engaged in it cannot rise from poverty to affluence within a week, as they did during that speculative period. But it is a certain road to wealth, now as then, only it requires more time, more patience and more labor to reach their goal.

The following was taken from the files of the Arizona Pioneer Historical Society Museum, Tucson, Arizona.

ARIZONA BLADE TRIBUNE

Florence, Arizona Saturday, May 5, 1923

"RICH GOLD STRIKE MADE IN OWL HEADS---\$2000 TON"

Rich Gold strikes seem to be the rule these days and within the last few weeks two big strikes have been made in Pinal County. First came the news of the big strike in the Greenback property south of Casa Grande, where ore running as high as \$300 per ton in gold was made. Now comes Roy Guild to Florence with news that he has found ore in an old works near the old Jesse Benton silver property in the Owl Heads district that assays 73 ounces gold and 512 ounces silver, or within six dollars of \$2000 to the ton.

The Owl Heads District is highly mineralized there being three distinct mineral zones in the district, gold, silver and copper. Back in the years from 1862 to 1892 there was much activity in the district. The Jesse Benton silver property was being worked night and day with a large crew of miners, and it is reported that between 1,000,000 and 1,500,000 ounces of silver was taken out of the mine. The ore was freighted some five miles further down the gulch to the west where it was put through a five stamp mill and the silver milled. Then there was a village of some 300 souls at the mine and it was truly a lively mining camp, and there are tales of 'high-grading' that put to shame some of the wildest tales of the palmiest days of California mines. Shipments of ore to Denver are recorded that went as high as eighty percent silver and it was worth a dollar an ounce.

In those days quicksilver was used to save the silver and, as the story goes, at times when the quantity of quicksilver ran low the miners were put to work on a gold ledge nearby. But it was found to be impractical to try to mill gold ore in a silver mill, so nothing much was done toward development of the gold property. Along about 1892 the promoters of the Jesse Benton became interested in the Vekol, out south of Casa Grande,

that was found to be much richer than the Jesse Benton, and the camp was moved to the Vekol, which produced a million or two. Then came a close down of the silver mining followed by litigation, and work in the Owl Heads was suspended entirely. For a number of years the Zekendorfs of Tucson kept up the assessment work on the properties, but finally abandoned it. Later William Clark of Florence filed on the property, and he had an arrangement with the late Col. Thomas F. Weedon who did a great deal of development work on what became known as the Silver Hoard Group of claims. When Mr. Clark was no longer able to keep up the work, the Guild Brothers, Roy and Nott took hold of the property and kept up the assessment work, and have done a great deal of development work, especially on the Silver Group where a large tonnage of silver ore running an average of \$24.00 per ton is now piled up on the dump. Samples are to be had running very high. Last year a bonding lease was given on the property but owing to some dispute the work was closed down the first of this year. It was then that Roy Guild, who is actively in charge of the property, began work on the gold ledge which is known as the Golden Eagle, about a mile and a half to the west and down in the lower lands. With the assistance of one man he cleared out the old shaft and found considerable water in the bottom. He then cleared out spots in the old surface cut which had been pretty well filled up in the more than thirty years of idleness with soil washed down by the heavy rains that abound in that region during the rainy periods. Mr. Guild then selected a spot further east than had been before worked where he sunk a hole and encountered the ledge quite near the surface. A couple of shots were put in to take off the top capping and many samples of free gold were found. Mr. Guild made several tests for gold and found the ore to be very rich. Samples were taken to the University of Arizona where assays were made by Mr. Jacobson. These samples were those not showing free gold and the assays developed that a rich find had been made, the ore running 73 ounces of gold and 512 ounces of silver, or within six dollars of \$2000.00 per ton.

The ore is pronounced Tulleride and is strongly impregnated with horn silver. The richest specimens of ore is very dark quartzite, very similar to that found in Colorado. The pay streak is about 12 to 14 inches wide at the top and lays between a silver diabase and a granite hanging wall on a forty-five percent incline, dipping to the south, the ledge running east and west. At the present writing the ledge has not been traced far enough to determine it's length, and nothing has been done to give any idea of it's depth.

All the ground in that section has been taken up in years gone by and is now held under filings, so there is no need for a rush in that direction with the hope of getting a location on the pay dirt.

The Guild brothers have not fully determined what their next step will be, but that they will take action to develop the property is quite certain. The location is easily assessable from either the east or west. It is about 15 miles east of the Southern Pacific Railroad and in comparatively flat country.

Should this property prove up by carrying the high values with depth, another Goldfield or Comstock is not beyond possibility, in fact, it now seems to be entirely reasonable that before another year rolls around, the Owl Heads mining district will be the scene of more genuinely substantial activity than in any other mining section in Arizona, for here, gold, silver and copper may be mined with almost equal success, and unlike most rich territory, here water is to be found at a shallow depth in sufficient quantity for mining purposes and domestic use.

Mr. Mott Guild has a few samples at the Post Office that he will be glad to show anyone disiring to see tham and there are also a few samples at the office of the Blade Tribune.

Our Apache Mines Group lies some 3 to 4 miles north of the Big Flo area and trends almost due north and south, except that the copper shows begin to swing easterly at the southern end of the claims and the silver picks up to the south.

Most generally, the copper shows in it's carbonates and oxides along with some chalcocite and an occasional sign of pyritics. It occurs in fractures in the andesite and volcanics along a very wide altered zone of contact with the granite. Our showings begin near the north end of Apache Mines #2 claim and occur intermittently, south thru the "Owl", "Apache Mines #3, #20, #13, #4, #6, #7 and #1", "Pearl E.", "El Capitan", "Buckhorn" and "Dolores".

No drilling has been done except that of our validation work with a wagon drill to about 60'. Again, it is therefore impossible to determine the depth required to intercept the sulfide zones. However, 300' depths may constitute a primary drilling program and, again, may reveal the true nature of the occurrence.

The Jesse Benton silver claims group lie some 4-5 miles east of the Apache Mines Group and cover the old workings along with numerous fault trends and the Geronimo strike which is a zone of parallel altering iron-stained quartz veins and altered andesite intrusives about 400' wide and a half mile long. Some 35 to 40 gouges, pot holes and shallow shafts pock-mark the area showing small amounts of galena, silver chlorides and bromides, some argentite and occasional copper stain. This strike trend is about north 80° east, dipping 45° to 50° to the south.

Early day production came from the old Jesse Benton, (now Easter #6) and was derived from quartz veins on the contact between the andesite and the granite nearly parallel to the scarp fault along the north base of the Tortolitas, some 2000' to the south and dipping about 50° in that direction.

About a year ago, we encountered an easterly extension of this sheared-off main vein occurrence and extracted several tons of high grade silver ore. This was shipped to Inspiration Smelter in February. About that time we found that Continental Oil Company was taking up ground and State prospecting permits to the north and west of our relatively few Apache Mines claims, so we ceased activity in the silver area to concentrate on covering the copper zone.

One renowned geologist recently advised that drilling should be from 100' to 600' and indicated he would provide us with his interpretation of drill targets.

December 15, 1970

Again, 300' may be insufficient in this area but we believe would stand a better chance of success than the first two areas mentioned.

About a mile to the north of the Easter and Geronimo claims we obtained a one-year option to purchase a group of 31 claims covering the "Big Mine" and it's adjoining area called the Big 3 Group. The Purchase price is \$25,000.00 if exercised. The owner claims he drilled with an air-track to from 80' to 100' and partially outlined a moderately small oxide ore body very near the surface with copper values up to 15%. The old workings produced chlorides and bromides, also sulfides of silver from a N/W-S/E faulted contact zone between the andesite and the schist and was in production when the Jesse Benton was discovered. The water level is about 60' to 65' and would prevent the use of air alone to carry the cuttings from the holes.

We have a local company who is willing to erect a leaching plant on the property if we can expose enough ore to support it.

It is quite possible that your drilling capacity could make such a determination and we believe that once engaged on this property, further exploration and negotiations could lead to the expansion of your interests and participation in the rest of our holdings.

We propose to offer your company an undivided one-half ownership in our Big 3 purchase option for the cash remittance of \$2,500.00 and such drilling footage as may be deemed adequate to outline or block out the ore body. Such an agreement can include an option to purchase the remaining 50% at an agreed figure at any time during the drilling option period.

Any offers of participation or cash proposals or drilling options will be duly considered as our primary concern is the property development.

We feel confident that once your people have paid us a visit and inspected our area that you will be able to visualize it's indicated potential.

It is not necessary to divide the area into the four groups as we have shown in this writing, but it may facilitate expediency in the commencement of your participation. Once you are in the area, it would be easier to determine the extent of your desire to expand your interests.

December 15, 1970

I hope my enthusiasm has not lead to any confusion, as it was not intended. We have been moving slowly about the area for nearly two years and have been considerably restricted in our exploration and development because of a lack of sorely-needed capital.

We sincerely hope that your company will visit us and seriously consider some type of participation.

Please understand that this proposal is subject to any prior sale or lease agreement.

As a matter of interest, the Phelps-Dodge people have been mapping the entire Tortolita area for the past two months and results of their petrographic determination should be available some time after the first of the year.

As you know, such companies often take from six months to a year or more before arriving at any conclusion and we are under no obligation to them or anyone else. Only the "Old Eagle" claim in Section 2 is a State Mineral Lease. However, that is primarily gold in values and is quite isolated from the rest.

I shall keep you advised of any status change or further development of the property. We are available at any time for an inspection and hope to hear from you at an early date.

Very sincerely yours,



W. R. Ewing
President

ARIZONA WESTERN MINES, INC.

WRE/mv
encl:
cc: