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May 23rd, 1938.

Mr. F. A. Beauchamp  
Hamilton, Beauchamp & Woodworth  
Metallurgical Engineers  
564 Market Street  
San Francisco, California

Re: Buckhorn and Castle Creek Placers

Dear Mr. Beauchamp:

Replying to your letter of May 21st with enclosed description of the placers, I am very glad to tell you all I know about them.

According to old records, some placer mining was attempted at or near Castle Creek prior to 1890 but evidently was not successful.

My visit in 1931 was made in company with a man named Robert H. Barnes who claimed to have staked placer ground along the bed and benches of Castle Creek for a length of seven miles and for an average width of 600 feet, the bed of the creek itself having an average width of about 100 feet. We took a number of pans at various points where Barnes claimed that there were good values but in every case failed to get anything more than very light colors and many tests were blank.

Under the wash the water level was nearly at surface and at times the creek is scoured by heavy floods. In the benches there are many seams of clay and in both wash gravel and benches the percentage of boulders ranges from 50 to 75%.

The Iceberg Placer Company was mainly occupied in selling stock and blew up, I think, in 1934 or 1935. I do not think that any information obtained from them would be reliable.

I know Mr. Egeland to whom Holt refers in the last paragraph of his letter and I have just talked to him on the phone. He thinks well of Holt personally but says that he was associated with men who would not or could not give him any financial backing and that he failed to pay in full for his equipment which has since been taken away. He says that Holt worked out one of the bars with a shovel and Ainley bowls and produced considerable gold but not enough to pay for the property and equipment. Egeland thinks that Holt owns the claims or some of them and believes that there are other bars as good as the one which was worked but considerable capital would be required to install a new working plant and cable and slack-line outfit.

Mr. F. A. Beauchamp

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May 23rd, 1938

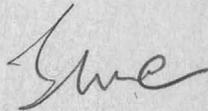
Last year I was asked for a very brief statement on this property by one of my clients and enclose a copy of what I sent them.

I greatly doubt if this property would be of interest to you or your friends but as you will realize I have never made any real examination and may be doing them an injustice.

If you have parties who are looking for placer, I think that I could put you in touch with some much better opportunities right in California.

Personal regards.

Yours very truly,



GMC:MF  
Enc. 1

The Buckhorn Placer property consisting of 24 claims grouped in three groups - Green gold-Buckhorn and Iceberg groups, 160 acres to each group. Location: - Southern part of Yavapai County Arizona on Buckhorn Canyon, a tributary of Castle Creek about 25 miles East of Morrystown, Ariz. Green gold: - Has 8 to 10 acres of hard red gravel deposited there by torrential action of old river (presumably the Hassayampe) 120 feet above the present canyon floor and has been developed in one reef by tunnel on bed rock for a distance of 125 feet from which the original locator made a living for himself and family for 5 or 6 years with dry washer. I tested this tunnel and at the last test on face it ran \$1.75 per wheelbarrow load. The gravel is about 18 feet in depth and carries values to grass roots although the gold gets finer and the gravel less rich as it nears the surface, however it all carries enough free gold to make it profitable. There is about 2-1/2 to 3 acres in this reef. Just across a small arroyo there is a larger reef apparently the same depth and richness but sampled only in open cuts dug for assessment work all faces show values up to \$1.25 per cubic yard.

Buckhorn:-Adjoins Greengold on the East, 160 acres, camp spring and well on this group, flowing water in yard kitchen and bath from spring 150 feet above camp. Work on this last year consisted of washing 3,000 yards of the gravel of the one reef of this group using a two bowl Ainly unit. Gold recovered and shipped to the mint at San Francisco and sold to the local buyer for \$2,000, this tells it's own story.

Iceberg:-On this group that joins the Buckhorn on the East and consisting of 160 acres is the largest reef of all the reefs on the entire property, about 12 acres and on which I tested 600 yards with sluice boxes recovering 13 oz. 6 pennyweight. On all three groups there is about 20 acres of these reefs of the old river bed all being 100 feet or more above present camp floor where in my opinion the greater values will be found and which I will discuss in a later paragraph.

I went on this property Oct. 16th 1935 to test, first with pick and pan, later installing a small mechanical testing plant. Tests were all made from measured dirt and results carefully weighed, nothing left to chance or guess work, which resulted in the following: Greengold showed \$1.46 per yard, Buckhorn \$0.96 and Iceberg \$2.40 per yard. All these tests were at various situations from Oct. 1935 to March 1936 when I installed a small 1/2 yard power shovel and tram-mel screen and sluice boxes and washed the 600 yards that yielded the 13 oz. 6 dwt. mentioned above, this in 1936. I then bought the Buckhorn group and with the same shovel with the addition of the Ainly outfit during the late summer and early fall of 1937 ran the 3,000 yards that yielded the \$2,000.00.

Water:-The water was pumped from a well on this group by 4 inch centrifugal pumps, one at the well a Byron-Jackson and half way up the canyon wall a Novo single stage, into a 33,000 gallon tank and fed to the bowls by gravity and using about 15,000 gallons per shift of 8 hours and never having to stop on account of water shortage. This was pumped from a well 6' by 6' and 35 ft. deep with 85 ft. crosscut on bedrock. There are 2 other wells on the Iceberg from which I pumped 600 gallons per minute day in and day out while making the sluice tests so there is plenty of water to handle 1,000 yards per shift while working the reefs or bars, possibly much more by using all 3 wells. The gold is so consistently disseminated throughout the gravel that with a 1-1/4 yard shovel and any kind of up to date method of gravel washing it is a very attractive placer property as it is all virgin ground.

Present canyon floor:-The old river channel is traceable for 8 miles up to the divide but at least 95% of it has eroded and been deposited in the present canyon and the few tests that I was able to get ran very high, on the Iceberg well #1--\$5.00 per yard, well #2-- (Also on Iceberg) \$38.40 and well #3 on the Buckhorn \$8.00 eleven feet above bedrock. I could not test any more on account of water and lack of drag line equipment to dig deeper.

This is a brief description of the property and my more than two years test work and I trust that you will be able to determine from it whether you will want to come out or send a representative to verify same which you can very easily do.

I will sell at a reasonable price after you have 30 or 60 days time to check up on this and no money to be paid until you have satisfied yourself thoroughly as to the worth, then a certain per cent (say one third or one quarter) down and the balance one fourth of the gross recovery until price agreed on is paid.

Mr. Brunton whom you mentioned in your letter has seen the results of my work and I refer you, without permission, to Mr.C.O.Palmer, Asst. Postmaster at Morristown Ariz. also Mr.R.O.Egeland, Mine and Smelter Equipment Co. 110 S. 3rd Ave. Phoenix Ariz. with which two gentlemen I have done several thousands worth of business while in Arizona.

Yours truly,

Joe N. Holt

Buckhorn

CASTLE CREEK PLACER

had listed

owned or controlled by Robert H. Barnes of Phoenix with whom is associated Delaine. Examined January 2, 1931, <sup>with Barnes.</sup> Located principally along an arroyo running into Castle Creek, near the southern edge of Yavapai County near Evans Butte. Some placer also on <sup>how</sup> Buck ~~Skin~~ Creek.

The ~~plac~~er on Buck <sup>how</sup> ~~Skin~~ Creek was quite thoroughly sampled, but appeared to be small and erratic in value, altho in sections it ran up to \$1.00 per yard. The average depth of the gravel was 30 ft. down to the schist bed rock and about 50% of boulders would not ~~possibly~~ run through the trommel. The benches along the gulch carry a certain amount of clay and can not be easily sampled. The placer ground property has a length of seven miles on Castle Creek and in places a width of 600 ft. Pannings were taken which showed practically no <sup>color</sup> ~~metal~~ ~~and~~ values appear to be lacking or at least very erratic. The placer ground starts near the old town of Briggs, which is two miles West of Copperopolis, where a lot of work was done in 1904. There is only one shack now left in the town of Briggs, the elevation of which is 2700'.

Two and one-half miles above Briggs (to the North) is the Duco-Boy <sup>manganese</sup> ~~Iron~~ Mine which is said to contain good ore, but is handicapped by transportation. Castle Creek Wash <sup>has</sup> a varying width, but would not average much over 100 ft. The depth of gravel and the average percentage of boulders and gold have never been properly determined and the water rises nearly to the surface of the sand.

Practically no exploration or development work has been done in this wash, altho <sup>Barnes</sup> ~~Barnes~~ and Varancamp, after thoroughly examining Buckhorn Wash took some pannings in Castle Creek, which <sup>Barnes</sup> ~~Barnes~~ claimed showed good values, but the samples which we took appeared to be almost or entirely blank. In the benches along side of the wash no gold could be found and the percent of boulders would run up as high as 75.

The property is reached by driving out on the road to Castle Hot Springs and turning off up Castle Creek about two miles this side of the Hotel. Elevation of the Creek at this point is 2,050 ft. and the Creek bed rises 650 ft. in driving the seven miles up to Briggs.

In this vicinity is located the Whipsaw Mine owned by Ezra Thayer.

*Concl* This property appears to have no merit whatever. Varencamp, as per his letter to me, was obliged to condemn the Buckhorn placer and there is no reason to believe that any of the other ground on or near Castle Creek has any better values. The expense of exploring and testing the gravel would be considerable and compared to other placers in this section of the Country, Castle Creek makes a very unfavorable showing and does not, in my judgment justify any further attention. It is possible that some of the tributary creeks would contain pay dirt in the washes and benches, but such deposits would almost certainly be very small and comparatively expensive to operate.

I advised Barnes and Delaine that the property is of no interest to me.

September 11, 1931

BUCKHORN PLACER.

Note by G. M. Colvocoresses  
October, 1937.

In January, 1931, I visited the Buckhorn Placer located on Buckhorn Creek which flows into Castle Creek a few miles above the point where Castle Creek is crossed by the road from Morristown to Castle Hot Springs--near the northern limit of Maricopa County, Arizona.

I could find no evidence of any substantial quantity of pay gravel in either Castle or Buckhorn Creek, but having been told that these deposits had been sampled by F. H. Vahrenkamp of San Francisco I made inquiry from him and in reply received a letter dated January 17th, 1931, from which I quote as follows:

"The placer property sampled by me located in Buckhorn Canyon, Yavapai County, Arizona; averaged .54¢ per cubic yard. The test composed 100 cubic yards of gravel in bank. The deposits are entirely too small and scattered to be considered workable on a commercial scale.

Castle Creek was not sampled by me--only a pan sample here and there. I estimate that it will require at least \$10,000 to sample Castle Creek properly in order to fully determine actual dredgeable yardage available, plus values. "

Yours very truly,

(signed) F. H. Vahrenkamp  
225 Crocker Bldg. San Francisco

I subsequently visited these places on two occasions while mining was being attempted by two different outfits, one of which was called the Iceberg Placers, Inc. Both operations were failures.

I greatly doubt if there is any large yardage of gravel which will run 50¢ per yard, only small streaks near the bed rock seemed to have any such value and operating conditions are very unfavorable. I do not consider that these placers merit any extended investigation, altho there are small sections of gravel which might be worked on a very limited scale.

G.M.C.