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November 3, 1945

Mr. Henry Leeds
109 Beacon Boulevard
Sea Girt, New Jersey

RE: La Cholla Placers

-file

Dear Sir:

Your letter of October 28 came as a surprise since neither I nor the party for whom I examined the La Cholla Placers have had anything to do with that property for some seven or eight years.

I have talked on the telephone with Judge E. S. Clark and his son and the former recalled that he had written you in regard to La Cholla but did not mention having given you any specific data concerning the property.

As far as I am concerned, it would be impossible for me to advise you concerning the present situation or changes which have occurred during the past several years, without making a personal investigation which would involve considerable expense.

Yours very truly,

GMC:IW

X

109 Beacon Blvd
Sea Girt, N.J. Oct 28. 1945

Q 11/2/45

Mr. George M Colvocoresses.
Mining and metallurgical Engineer,
1108 Luhrs Tower, Phoenix, Arizona.

Dear Sir.

Referring to the La Cholla placers, submitted to me some time ago by messrs Clark & Clark, Steard Building, Phoenix Arizona, advise that I desire to submit same to friends of mine, and wish to know if there is any change in the situation.

Will you kindly advise me, and much oblige

Yours very truly
Henry Leeds

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July 1, 1959

Mr. Tom G. Young
Quartzsite, Arizona

September 29, 1944

RE: CHOLLA PLACERS WATER SUPPLY

Dear Mr. Young:

During the summer of 1903 I was sent to make an examination of the Cholla Placers which had recently been optioned by Mr. H. J. Beemer with whom I had been associated for several years. My instructions covered the investigation of a water supply.

When my report was forwarded to the New York office I was instructed to proceed with the further sampling, and also water investigation to the extent that we were to drill wells and dig prospect shafts over the entire acreage which had been optioned.

To that end I put many men to work digging shafts, ordered two well drilling outfits and proceeded without delay to sink wells to determine the possibility of securing enough water to supply the demands of a hundred stamp mill, steam boilers and domestic use.

Two sites were selected to make the first attempt to develop a water supply. One of these was at the point where the present U.S. G.S. Topographic Map lists "Beamer Well" on Section 19, Tp. 3 North-Rg. 19 West. The other was at a point on Tyson Wash on Section 8 same township and Range. This well was located on the East side of the wash and some few hundred feet from the road.

The first well rig referred to above was a Davis Calyx rotary machine taking out a ten inch core. The second an American rig also drilling a ten inch hole.

Before locating these two places in which to begin the work of sinking wells a geological reconnaissance of the watershed was made, and surrounding hills of the valley extending to the Castle Dome Peak to the South, the New River range to the East and the Dome Rock Mts. to the West. It developed that the same Northwest-Southeast fault planes were prevalent here as they are in the Gila and eastern Arizona area, closely following the great fault that divides the Colorado Plateau from the desert areas of Arizona.

It was then disclosed the granite batholithic intrusion just Southwest of Quartzsite, which had been pushed up practically in the middle of the valley. This intrusion had certainly acted as a dam for the underflow of the Tyson Wash, and that notwithstanding the fact that water in the wells in and adjacent to the town of Quartzsite was only from twenty to thirty feet below the surface this condition was brought about by the so called blocking effect produced by the granite intrusion, and that this was water that was passing over the granite rocks, now hidden by the valley fill, and the real stored water would be above or to the south of this granite intrusion, so we drilled one well just south of the intrusion, or at what is known as the point of rocks; and go several

miles further south and sink another, believing that it would show a greater depth of water. This well, or what is known as the Beemer Well, was located on the fault plane that passes through the New Water divide and up through the Dome Rock Mountains past the Goodman mine and west of the La Paz mountains.

The logs of these wells can only be stated from memory as the records have all been burned in the Yuma Court House fire, but we struck water in the Beemer well somewhere around eighty to ninety feet and continued through this stratum of water to around one hundred and thirty or forty feet where we encountered a body of indurated clay which was so tough that it impeded the speed of coring as it was very difficult to extract the clay core from the drill barrel. We drilled into this body of clay for several hundred feet then gave up the work, without penetrating the clay body.

We then decided to sink a shaft to the bottom of the first water strata and develop it, which we did by driving drifts across the valley fill and in faces of these drifts we drove drill holes as far as possible until we had developed the capacity of our pumps which were set to deliver a flow sufficient to satisfy the requirements before stated. We then kept these pumps operating noting the draw down which was an inconsequential amount.

When this water supply was finally agreed upon as being sufficient for our needs we then ordered our 100 stamp mill and appurtenent machinery and began the erection of the same. Owing to misrepresentations as to the value contained in the upper or surface deposit we became involved in a law suit which resulted in our company leaving the premises.

The well near the point of rocks was not developed as was the Beemer well as we bottomed it in the rock, but we dug it deep enough to determine that the same water was passing this point, but we never encountered the clay bed. I am satisfied that if this well had been put down on the west, instead of the east, side of the wash we would not have hit rock, that is if it were located a reasonable distance south of the granite intrusion.

The elevation of the surface of the ground at the Beemer well is approximately 1000 feet above sea level, at the point of rocks, approximately 950 feet above sea level. The location of the Cholla plant would be in the neighborhood of 1175 feet above sea level so with the possible 100 feet of pump lift to the surface of the ground and the additional pipe line lift of 225, it would mean a total pump lift of 325 feet.

I am confident that as much water, probably more, can be developed at the point of rocks as we developed at the Beemer well, provided it is placed in the proper location, and when I say proper location it should be placed so that the bottom of the well at the same depth as the clay into the Beemer well may be reached without striking the rock, which can be ascertained by instrumental work.

Not knowing just what method you will employ in the reduction of the Cholla ores it is impossible for me to say how many gallons of water per minute you will require to be delivered at your plant, but whatever it is it will be far more economical to pump this water than to attempt to haul it. Today the Parker power line passes within a few hundred feet of the possible location of this well thus providing electric energy for pumping, also milling.

The distance from the proposed well site to the Cholla mill site is less than three miles and as the Parker-Yuma power line now passes within a short distance of the well site with power available for perhaps not to exceed one cent per k.w.-hr. the total cost per cubic yard of gravel processed should not exceed two cents, which takes into consideration that you will save a goodly percentage of the water used.

The foregoing is, of course, operating cost and does not take into consideration the amortization for well, pump equipment and pipe line. It, however, is an inconsequential amount if you are in good gravel.

This then means that with an installation of a 500 gallon per min. pump, you can process 138 cubic yards of gravel per hour, (it shouldn't require this amount of water) or 3312 cubic yds. daily with this amount of water, as undoubtedly the gravels do not require a vast amount of water to liberate the gold as little clay is encountered.

In my opinion arrived after my several years on the ground and the many years since then that I have put in developing water for similar projects that your water problem is easily solved and ample water can be developed as above stated, however, you must take the ordinary precaution of being sure that you are complying with the state water code in appropriating the water for such use.

Very truly yours,

James B. Girand

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July 1, 1959

GOLD HILL DREDGING COMPANY
Three Eleven California Street
San Francisco, California
Zone 4

October 14, 1952

Mr. Tom G. Young
20 East Earll Drive
Phoenix, Arizona

Dear Mr. Young:

We wish to acknowledge and thank you for your letter of October 11th addressed to Mr. J. J. Coney pertaining to your presentation of the La Cholla Placers near Quartzsite, Yuma County, Arizona.

After reading your letter with much interest, Mr. Coney asked the writer to check our engineers' records and submit an analysis and opinion on your project.

In 1942-43 we were actively engaged in mining tungsten near Quartzsite during which time we learned much of the district in general and were especially interested in the history and voluminous reports on the old placers which included and made fair mention of your La Cholla district.

In view of the possibility of developing an area adaptable to bucketline dredging, our engineers were instructed to make a study with "old timers" - as the Scotts, W. G. Keiser, Guy Hendrix and others - was the basis for centering on the La Chollas for our investigation.

We had access to the returns from Mr. Watters' drifting operations, and having purchased the remaining equipment on the surface and in the shaft, we were in a position and privileged to enter the workings and study the formation from bed rock to surface.

It was estimated that in the vicinity of the Watters' workings the ground would most likely have a value of 40¢ per cu. yd. from surface to bed rock, which value would be of interest if contributing factors to successful mining were in balance.

Our engineers did not recommend drilling the property because of bedrock grade and increasing depth toward Tyson Wash, unevenness of bedrock, with barren high points, deep crevices carrying values which could not be detected and mined by dredging and then the tightness of the gravel which would cut the digging capacity of the dredge and accordingly increase operating costs.

With the overall cost in mind the dredging possibilities were abandoned as being "too long a shot" in consideration of the cost

of the deep digging type of dredge required, the development of a supply of water, together with an initial outlay of from $50,000.00 to $75,000.00 for prospecting to prove or disprove a block of ground of sufficient yardage to support such an installation.

Without questioning the feasibility of the mining plan as proposed in your letter, we feel that any participation at this time would be strictly speculative because the property has not been prospected to the point of proving an area of pay dirt and logging the formation to determine whether or not the Caliche, which you depend upon to support the underfround workings, persists over the potential workable portion of the area.

We question the Caliche because of our own experience in sinking several shafts at Middle Camp. The Caliche was firm and intact close to the base of the hills whereas at lower levels the Caliche was of less thickness, soft, shattered and, in places, decomposed.

Frankly, we feel that your plan will call for a lot of ground work and specific data to support it before we could consider reviewing it with an interest in participation.

Very truly yours,

GOLD HILL DREDGING COMPANY

By
C. J. Schifferle

CJS;smp

Abstracted 56 pp

Copy
July 1, 1959

George M. Colvocoresses
Mining Metallurgical Engineer
1100 Lubrs Tower
Phoenix, Arizona

COPY OF ESSENTIAL DATA IN FILE
RELATIVE TO A PORTION OF THE
LA CHOLLA PLACERS (file)

Report of May 28, 1936

LOCATION & GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The placer mining claims; Happy Days, Success, and Enterprise (each containing about twenty (20) acres) are located in the Plomosa Mining District, Yuma County, Arizona. These claims form part of what was formerly known as the La Cholla Placers, and are situated on unsurveyed land at the foot of the west slope of the Dome Rock Mountains, some six miles southwest of the town of Quartzsite, with which they are connected by four miles of fairly good desert road, and two and one-half miles of oiled highway. The elevation is 1400' above sea level, the climate hot and dry, and the country is a typical desert valley rising gradually from Tyson Wash which lies some three miles east of the mine, to the Dome Rock Mountains, which rise sharply on the west edge of the claims. The vegetation is very sparse.

HISTORY:

The placer deposits of this district were discovered in 1862 and have been worked at intervals ever since. In the early days many rich pockets of gravel were found near the surface, and coarse gold was recovered by dry washing on a very small scale or by packing the dirt for a long distance to water. Subsequently, shafts were sunk through the detrital material to bed rock, in some cases as much as 140', and drift mining was carried on in the gravel directly overlying the bed rock but no large-scale operations have ever been

sustained. The claims examined are said to have been worked by various individuals for many years, and during the last three or four years by Spence McMillan and partners, who sunk the McMillan shaft.

GEOLOGY AND ORE OCCURRENCE:

The Dome Rock Mountains are largely composed of arenaceous and calcareous shale, slate and schist of Pre-Cambrian age now tilted at an angle of some 30 degrees dipping towards the south-east. Apparently these rocks are underlain and intruded by granite which is responsible for the tilting, and much of the schist has been metamorphosed to quartzite and to a rock in which the quartz and mica predominate. Many small veins of gold bearing quartz traverse the mountains and although the values found in place are generally low, it is evident that erosion has resulted in concentrating the gold in the conglomerate and gravel which now lie along the base of the hills and form the bed of the desert valley.

The pay gravel is composed largely of granite, quartzite and schist pebbles, cemented with clay and fine sand, derived from the decomposition of the sedimentary rocks. The gold as recovered in the dry washing plants is naturally rather coarse, the larger grains being found near the foot of the mountains, and the average size becoming smaller as work extends out under the desert. The amount of fine gold which was lost in the dry washing plants does not seem to have been definitely determined from any of the operations which have come to my attention, but judging by my samples taken at the Happy Days, this may be roughly estimated at approximately 30 to 40% of the total when high grade gravel was under treatment.

The recovered gold is reported to have a fineness in excess of

900, the nuggets and grains are clean and bright, and do not appear to have traveled any great distance. In the workings in the Happy Days Claims, the gold penetrates into the soft schist bed rock for foot or more, and is principally found in the older gravel which forms a well-defined layer above bed rock for a thickness of five to ten feet. For purpose of calculations I have averaged the thickness of the pay dirt at seven and one-half feet, i.e. about two and one-half yards. Above this lies a younger bed of gravel with much lower values. On the west side of the Happy Days Claims and close to the mountains the gravel is firmly cemented, and it is impossible to liberate the gold without mechanical crushing, but further to the east there is a band in the vicinity of the McMillan shaft where the gravel is somewhat looser and a substantial proportion of the values are liberated by passing the dirt through a trommel. At a distance of 175 feet east of the McMillan (Happy Days) shaft the drift gravel becomes moist and cannot be treated by dry washing methods, and washing of this ground will necessitate either some form of drying in advance of concentration, or preferably the development of water.

For the efficient treatment of any of this gravel, it would be very important to obtain an adequate water supply which might be secured from wells to be sunk in Tyson Wash on in another wash, both of which are some three miles distant from the mine, although the expense of developing this water and pumping it to the mine with a lift of some 300' would be substantial.

It is stated by persons familiar with the ground that there is another seam of pay gravel found in the vicinity of the McMillan shaft, lying some 50' above the bed rock and having a thickness of one to two yards, but the extent and value of this upper seam does not

appear to have been determined nor has any substantial amount of mining been done in the past, so that I merely mention it as something to be investigated.

It must be borne in mind that the bed rock does not form a level floor in any of these workings, but actually lies in low ridges and shallow hollows, and the best gravel is found in the hollows or channels to which the bulk of the previous work has been confined. Any attempt to breast-cut through the entire area will of necessity involve the mining of a lower average grade of ore than has been produced in the past, while the selective mining of the richer channels can only be done at a comparatively high cost per yard.

VALUE OF GRAVEL & WORKING COST:

The best estimate that can now be formed as to the value of the gravel is obtained from past records, and from the present operations as far as results have been recorded. Undoubtedly the old time miners found and treated some very rich pockets, but it is evident that their average recovery did not represent a very high value.

According to statements made to me by Mr. Young and R. H. West, McMillan and associates mined a total of 3,200 yards of gravel from the shaft and recovered by dry washing a total of 520 ounces of unrefined gold, which may be considered to have a value of $31.00 per ounce at present price, and would bring the average yield of their ore to just over $5.00 per yard. However, it is apparent from an examination of McMillan's workings that his mining was largely confined to the deeper channels or bars (between the ridges or reefs of higher bed rock) in which the values are naturally concentrated, so that it would not be safe to assume that operations based on mining

all of the bed rock gravel would give similar values, and from such data as I possess, it appears that a conservative estimate of average gross value would be over $4.00 per yard, but since no systematic sampling or mining has been done on or near this property, it is not possible to give any definite figures. The total quantity of bed rock gravel (2½ yards in thickness) underlying the sixty acres comprised in these three claims may be figured at about 600,000 cubic yards (allowing for the material which has already been mined) and in treating this, it would be essential to screen out the boulders which are quite worthless.

On small or medium scale operations, the total working costs may be taken at $2.00 per yard (should be increased to perhaps $3 in 1948) and might be reduced if all of the bed rock gravel can be treated with profit. A certain percentage of the gravel representing the channels or depressions undoubtedly carries recoverable values in the order of $5.00 or better per cubic yard, and it is my opinion that the best method of thoroughly testing this ground would be to confine mining at the outset to these high grade channels and to test the lower grade sections as this work progressed in order to extend the workings just as far on either side of them as pay ore might be found.

Past records and present conditions would seem to indicate that there is sufficient pay gravel in these claims to form the basis for a small but profitable operation after repaying the initial cost of proper mining equipment and wet washing plant--which would recover over 90% of the gold--providing an adequate water supply and since a large area adjacent to the claims appears to contain similar gravel, the holdings might be enlarged at reasonable expense to include several

hundred acres and perhaps as much as a few million cubic yards of pay gravel.

It is my opinion that this deposit merits careful investigation on the part of any company that is seeking to establish an operation of this character.

Additional Notes Re: La Cholla
Placers Partly from
Investigations Subsequent to May, 1936.

A large desert flat sloping gently from the Dome Rock Mts. to Tyson Wash from three to four miles to the east. In this area there are probably 150 shafts and pits, but only a few of them go down to the true bed rock. There are two or three strata of caliche or hard cemented gravel between the surface and the bed rock and many of the shafts only penetrate to one of these at depths of from twenty to sixty feet, while the true bed rock, except near to the mountains is found at a depth of from 80' to 160' as shown by the wells near Tyson Wash in which some gold was noted, but which were not properly sampled. The pits put down on the Beamer Claims were not very deep and are said to have averaged 50¢ per yard to upper false bed rock--no accurate record available.

Some of the bed rock gravel is quite strongly cemented and would have to be crushed in order to properly free the gold and all of the gravel would require thorough disintegration in a trommel or on screens after which a large percentage of oversize can be discarded as absolutely worthless.

The ground now included in the Happy Days and the other claims in which Young is interested was part of an area of some ten square

miles which was sold by a man named Pease to a Canadian Railway man named Beamer in about 1900.

Beamer had the ground sampled by surface pits, most of which were salted, and after obtaining an average value of over $1.50 yard, proceeded to develop water and put up a 40 stamp mill, the foundations of which were still standing in 1936.

When operating results were unsatisfactory, Beamer employed Jas. Girand, Sr. to investigate, and Girand learned of the salting, which was later confirmed by a San Francisco engineer who very thoroughly re-sampled this area and got an average of about 50¢ per yard from surface to the first strata of false bedrock, some twenty feet in depth.

Beamer then sued Pease for damages and swindling (he had already paid $200,000 on account of the purchase price) and the complete record of this case, together with the assay map of the San Francisco engineer should have been found in the Court Records at Yuma, but I have been informed that these had been lost or removed.

This property was being worked for Mr. Spencer Kellogg in 1935. My investigation for Kellogg was made largely to determine whether there was any prospect that these could be made profitable with the dry-washing plant that was then operating, and after ascertaining that run of mine gravel was not averaging over $5.00 while the oversize reject from the trommel carried $0.78 per yard, I was firmly convinced that this particular operation never would pay, and so advised Mr. Kellogg who shut it down, and subsequently learned from his attorneys that the title situation was not satisfactory.

The Vacuum Oil Company took over the mine, but hauled the gravel

by truck seven miles to a little wet washing plant near the town of Quartzsite and lost money steadily for another six months. The hatched area shown on the map (Exhibit B) represents some of the gravel which they mined from the McMillan or Happy Days shaft and this apparently averaged $4.35 per yard. In neither case was there any competent technical supervision at either of the mine or treatment plants, but in my opinion the claims have merit, and justify a thorough examination although water must be brought to a local washing plant if they are ever to work with profit.

Information in October, 1937 was to the effect that these claims and several others in their vicinity have been taken over by the Coarse Gold Mining Company, which had purchased water rights from a ranch and intended to work them on a large scale.

In 1939 a report was made by Elgin Holt stating that the Halcion Mines, Inc. managed by Waters was then operating profitably and had worked out the bed-rock channel for a length of 500 yards, width 50 yards and height of 2 yards from their shaft which was 140' deep on the Jack Rabbit Claim. Young thus figured that they had mined some 50,000 yards, which averaged $4.05 per yard, and their tailings from a wet washing plant were said to have carried $0.17 per yard.

In 1939 an engineer named Robert E. Phelan, who claimed to represent large capital, conceived the idea of working this property from surface to bed rock. Apparently he proposed to block out a very large yardage of desert gravel after sampling by drills or otherwise, and then to install a dry land or standard dredge equipment of the largest type and capable of washing 10,000 cubic yards or more per day, and digging to great depth.

The washing of the gravel to be done by standardized wet methods with use of late type screens and jigs, and amalgamation of fines.

He told me that the gravel might be dry or moist, but it should not contain any large amount of clay and the bed rock must be soft enough to dig with the dredge at least as far down as the values had penetrated. The gravel could be cemented, if not too hard to dig, as it would all have to be crushed or otherwise disintegrated. He also admitted that large boulders would be a serious drawback and a high percentage might prove to be prohibitive.

Water would be obtained by pumping from the nearest large source of supply, even from the Colorado River which is several miles away, and the quantity of new water required would be reduced to a minimum by reclaiming as much of it as possible. Phelan figured that the average value of all the gravel should be 30¢ per yard, and the operating costs should not exceed 11¢ per cubic yard, but after some investigation, he abandoned his project.

From such information as has been obtained from various sources it appears possible that the area of gold bearing gravel may be found to extend eastward for a distance of over a mile from the foot of the Dome Rock Mountains, and north and south throughout a length of some three miles. However, it is highly probable that only a relatively small portion of this area contains the channels of pay gravel which have been worked in the past, and to which future mining will probably be confined.

These channels seem to occur at depths of from 50 to 150 feet below the surface and with widths of up to perhaps 300 feet. The thickness of the pay gravel is 6 to 10 feet, while the length of

the channels and the character and value of the ground between them was largely unproven up to 1939.

As to other claims in vicinity of Happy Days (see map, Exhibit A).

The channel on the Wilson Claim south of the Happy Days was being mined in 1936 for a height of 6½ feet, and a width of 113 feet. Average values were reported in excess of $4.00 per yard. This channel ran in a north-easterly direction, and appeared likely to cross either the Jack Rabbit or the Enterprise Claims.

The Middle Camp Claim was reported to have had a large body of surface gravel which sampled 50¢ per yard, and also some richer channel gravel concerning which I could obtain no reliable information.

The holdings of Marshall Draper located over one-half mile south of the Happy Days are said to have been thoroughly tested by the Yuba Company who dropped them after finding that over an area of 160 acres the bed rock was deep and the values too low to be commercial.

Young has told me that testing by drills an area in the vicinity of Happy Days developed a large yardage that would average $4.35 per yard which is an average that checks very closely with such samples as I took in the Happy Days, and such calculations as I could make from records of gold shipments and samples of tailings and other products at the Kellogg plant, and I think it conservative to state that an average of slightly over $4.00 per ton could be expected in the remaining sections of all of the bed rock channels which have so far been worked in this locality.

As to the water situation, Robert Lambeth, Quartzsite, owner of a property lying to the southwest of Happy Days, told me that a deep

channel undoubtedly runs through his property, but had not been sufficiently explored to determine whether or not there was any flow of water.

An alleged water expert assured him that at a depth of 66' he would find a flow of at least one miner's inch, and that at a depth of 288' in the Success or Enterprise Claim there should be a very much heavier flow sufficient to keep a large pump in operation. I consider these statements very questionable.

Young had a report from James Girand who studied the water conditions in 1903 and figured that from wells in Tyson Wash (which Young has located) they could develop and pump 500 gallons per minute which he thought would be sufficient to wash 138 yards per hour or 3,312 yards per day.

Tyson Wash seemed to be the logical source of a water supply for a small or medium sized operation, but I did not investigate the question of water rights. Recently Young has told me that an ample supply of water has been found at New Water Pass in the Plumosa Mountains, and 1000' above the elevation of the Happy Days shaft so that it would run by gravity. This statement should be checked.

Yours very truly,

/s/ G. M. Colvocoresses

GMC:IM

La Posa Development Co.
Year 1938

		Recovered	Average per yd.
July	1378 yards mined	$5,723.68	$4.15
August	1431 " "	4,364.99	3.05
September	934 " "	4,359.31	4.67
October	1332½ " "	9,389.10	7.05
November	1302 " "	5,926.97	4.55
December	1428½ " "	4,880.48	3.42

First 6 Months

6486 ½ yards mined	$ 26,178.65	$ 4.04

Second 6 Months

7806 yds. mined	34,644.53	4.44

Twelve Months

14,292½ yds. mined	60,823.18	4.26

Note: The above figures were taken from the books of the above company, and the values are the actual mint returns.

In 1939 they were in much richer ground, and over the two years of their operation, they mined 18,000 yards, from which the mint returns were $129,000.00 or an average of $6.50 per yard. I have seen the mint returns, but was unable to get the figures from their books on the second year of operation.

Tom G. Young