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WISSER AND COX  
CONSULTING GEOLOGISTS

John Hamacher

77 CALHOUN TERR  
SAN FRANCISCO  
SUTTER 1-6922

July 18, 1960

77

Mr. John Hamacher  
77 Calhoun Terrace  
San Francisco, California

Re: Jaw Quicksilver Prospect

July 13 - 1 day in field

July 14 - 1/3 day studying data on Mercy Mine  
and regional geology

July 15 - as above, and writing report, 1 day

2-1/3 days @\$150

\$ 350.00

350.00

Auto, 330 miles @10¢/mile

33.00

Dinner, Tracy (3)

8.44

Quicksilver assays (copy attached)

35.00

76.44

76.44

426.44

LESS: Advance received 7/12

- 250.00

NET DUE

\$ 176.44

HAMMACHER BILLING

July 13, 1 day in field  
July 14, 1/3 day, examining data on Mercy mine and regional geology  
July 15, as above and writing report 1 day

~~2 1/3 days~~ 2 1/3 days @ \$150 \$350

Expense Account

Car, 330 miles @ 10c per mile	\$33.00
Dinner, Tracy (3)	8.44
Quicksilver assays	35.00
	<u>76.44</u>

\$350.00

76.44

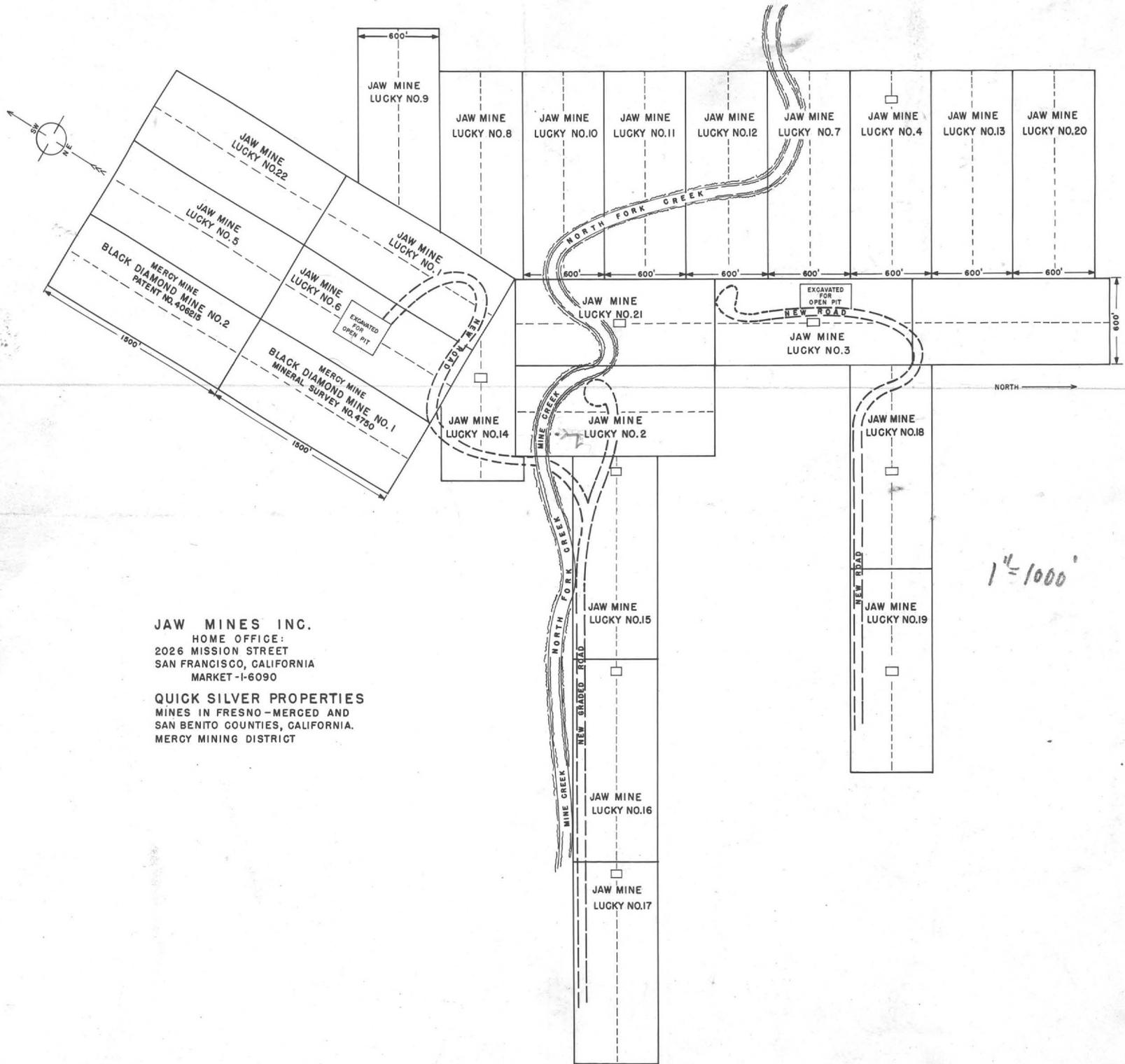
26.44

426.44

250.00

Received  
Amount due

\$ 176.44



**JAW MINES INC.**  
 HOME OFFICE:  
 2026 MISSION STREET  
 SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA  
 MARKET-I-6090

**QUICK SILVER PROPERTIES**  
 MINES IN FRESNO-MERCED AND  
 SAN BENITO COUNTIES, CALIFORNIA.  
 MERCY MINING DISTRICT

Jaw Mine 7/13/60

A dit 80' N from gulch. Follows mainly  
FW of bull qtz dips  $40^{\circ}$  E. Consider alt.,  
Fe stain, HGS in FW-zone may be from narrow  
to 8-10' wide.

Vein continues on S side gulch - dit in S side  
too. Seems less mineralized  
Dump said to average  $20''$

Open Cut Area N 80W adit + structure

<sup>(35')</sup>  
T at end, said to be v. Qtz vein, steeper  
than the other. S dip  $44^{\circ}$ . Vein dips  $57^{\circ}$  E. Narrow here,  
Strike  $N40^{\circ}$  E. Admit zone is not re-exposed except 95  
in hole in floor. Sample

200' W of N adit portal att. of meta sed. =  $N30^{\circ}W 76^{\circ}E$ .

In immediate FW of Qtz vein, it =  $N10^{\circ}E 90^{\circ}$

Qtz vein splits going S near gulch - HW reach dips  $15^{\circ}$  E.

300' down gulch from N adit is his basic igneous Fe-st

## JAW MINE

Fresno and Merced Counties. On lower east flank of Diablo Range, which here borders the San Joaquin Valley on the west. As the crow flies, 16 miles S8W from Los Banos. Reached from Dos Palos, via Mercy Hot Springs road, paved to turn off to mine, about 32 road miles.

Diablo Range carries Stanton district, on the NW; Central San Benito District (Mercy mine is 5 miles north of this) and New Idria district on the SE.

Country Rock.\* Franciscan. Mainly sandstone with lesser fine-laminated shale. Sandstone is quite fine-grained, grains subangular, mainly feldspar, with locally abundant quartz and some ferromagnesian. The sandstone is locally somewhat schistose, the schistosity being sub-parallel to the bedding.

About 300 ft. east of the portal of the north adit is an exposure of basic igneous rock, superficially deeply iron-stained, which may be a sill in the Franciscan. It is dark, dense, and usually called greenstone.

Structure: 200' west of the north adit portal the schistose sediments strike N30W and dip 76E. The strike is the typical one for Coast Ranges Franciscan. In the immediate footwall of the quartz vein along which the North adit was driven, the sediments strike N10E and dip vertically. The quartz vein lies along a planar, well-defined surface and  $\frac{1}{2}$  persists for a considerable distance to the north, and probably to the south. It splits going S, just N of the gulch; the HW split, which diverges in strike from the main of footwall branch, dips 15 E.

The main quartz vein follows what is probably a rather important fault, possibly a thrust.

The open pit workings, on a hill about 2000' SW of the North Adit, develop a narrow, rather irregular quartz vein which ~~does not follow~~ <sup>apparently does not follow</sup> a strong structure such as that followed by the North vein. This vein dips much more steeply than does the north vein, approaching 90. Reconnaissance suggests the the North vein crops out several hundred feet west of the above vein.

Mineralization is directly connected with veins of white "bull" qtz. Mineralization.-The sandstone away fro the quartz veins mentioned is hard. dense, and entirely unavorable for quicksilver mineralization. In a zone enclosing these veins, however, in the area of the North Adit and in the open pit area to the south, the sandstone is hydrothermally altered to a light buff to whitish color, and is somewhat porous. This whitish rock is stained with iron oxide, largely along fracture faces. Although the bleaching is probably due to alteration of the feldspar grains to clay, there is probably also some silicification, because the altered zones stand up above the surrounding country, resisting erosion. This is notably true in the open pit area.

Cinnabar in the metallic form, with metallic oystre, seems sparse; most of the cinnabar occurs as fine "paint", coating thin fracture faces. A very small amount of cinnabar can make a lot of "paint".

North Adit.\* This was driven 80 feet, almost due north, and mainly in the immediate footwall of the quartz vein along the Thrust(?). It was not in ore at the portal, as shown by barren sandstone extending to the vein, but is said to have entered ore a few feet in. Here the rock is bleached, iron-stained, and considerably shattered, suggesting late movement along the fault. The cinnabar distribution seems very erratic, occurring on spots rather than uniformly. The shattered quartz vein carries sparse HgS, both as paint and in metallic form, but most of the cinnabar seems to occur in the altered, somewhat shattered sandstone in the footwall of the quartz vein.

The ore zone widens going north, but it is doubtful if it exceeds 8 ft. in width. However, the adit would bring in backs of several hundred feet if extended northward, and since it is along an important fault zone which is mineralized, it is not a bad prospect. Before extending it north, I would recommend a west crosscut, to determine the western limit of ore, and an east crosscut through the quartz vein, to see if the HW side of the vein is mineralized.

Open Pit Workings- Called by Morrison the best showing. The map furnished us calls this area "excavated for open pit" but the only recent surface excavation consists of a broad swath cut by a bulldozer, eastward up the hill, which failed to remove all the soil.

Chief attraction in this area is a small but prominent outcrop of bleached, iron-stained and somewhat silicified sandstone adjacent to a narrow quartz vein dipping steeply east. This is an old working, poking around. Jaw Co. drove a tunnel 45' northwest to get under this vein, which strikes NE, and drifted on it 30' SW. It looks hungry and all the ore they claim here is in a small hole at the intersection of the crosscut tunnel and the vein. Sgar quartz. Sample

The vein pinches to a narrow stringer in the S face.

Mercy Mine.- Quicksilver deposits of central San Benito and northwestern Fresno Counties, Calif., R.G. Yates and L.S. Hilpert, Calif. Jour. Mines & Geology, v. 41, Jan 1945, p. 25-28.

Ore occurred in two places (1) at the South Hill workings, and (2) at the North Hill workings, about 1000' to the NNW.

The South Hill workings seem to have made the bulk of the production (total 1682 flasks). In kaolinized Franciscan sandstone which encloses a zone of HT altered fault breccia trending N30E. The altered zone includes several parallel veins of dark, brecciated qtz. polished by fault movement. These from several inches to over 3' thick, strike NE, dip 50-75S. Ore mined in open pit 200 x 50 x 30, and underground, in the same NE zone, SW of the pit. HgS with iron sulfides as impregnations in breccia fragments, as crystal fillings in openings in the breccia, and as impregnations in the altered sandstone.

Underground ~~of~~ (SW) ore shoots was 40' long, 20' wide and extended from surface down 90', where it ended.

The open pit or NE ore shoots seems to have extended nearly the full length of the pit (200'). High grade HgS streaks occurred on or near the silicified rib or vein, but altered breccia and ss several feet from the rib also carried considerable HgS.

Open pit ore body, 20' wide in places, seems to pitch to NE. At extreme end of pit an inclined winze explores the ore body to a depth of 30' below the pit floor. Winze goes down on ore, and at the intersection with the cross-cut east from bottom of winze is another good showing of HgS. In 1941 they were mining low grade overlooked in previous operations. Much of it contained 6 lbs. or more and included several high-grade pockets.

Both the NE and SW ore bodies are on parts of the silicified shear where it strikes about N15E; between the shoots the shear strikes more to the NE. More ore shoots may be found under the gravel cover N and E of the N end of the open pit.

"Any further development of the mine should explore below the present workings and also explore along the trend of the breccia zone in the rocks below the gravel cover."

North Hill Workings: These seem to date from the 19th century, while the South Hill NE shoot was being mined at least as late as 1941.

Zones of kaolinized ss are smaller and more erratic than on S Hill. Several veins of white, coarsely crystalline qtz are exposed on the N hill; strike N, dip E; a few inches to over 10 ft. thick. Different from ribs or veins of silicified breccia on S Hill; white qtz veins probably formed earlier than silicified breccia ribs or Hg deposits.

N Hill ore came from 2 ore bodies, each exhausted. One OB in and along the border of, the westernmost white qtz. vein. Qtz ore body strikes N, dips E 55. Outcrop inconspicuous Ore body enlarged downward; on lowest adit, 140' below outcrop, stope dimensions 30 x 20'. Ore both within and along borders of qtz vein.

Fault Ore Body: NE of qtz ore body, exploited by same adit. Fault N60E, dip steep S. Crops out for 200'. Ends to E along slightly mineralized NW fault.; dies out to W. Extends from surface to below the 110' level, but does not reach the main adit or 140' level. Stope extends for 100' plus on strike, pitches E along fault from surface to 110' level. Stopped for 80' on sub-level (110'); here 4-6' wide.

Prospect NE of Mercy Mine. - It was noted above that Yates and Hilpert recommended exploration along the trend of the breccia zone below the gravel cover. The accompanying small-scale map, from USGS Bull. 603 by Anderson and Pack, suggests that this is part of a major prospect. Mercy Hot Springs lies on or close to a major fault which bounds the Franciscan on the east, as far south as the NE fault which butts on this fault about 1.5 miles S of Mercy Hot Springs. The hot springs on or near the fault is a favorable sign for quicksilver and it looks possible that said fault was the major ore channel for the quicksilver deposits of the Mercy mine.

The Mercy Hot Springs fault is subparallel with the San Andreas rift and only 20 miles northeast of it. The South Hill Mercy ore bodies in the breccia zone show zigzag ore control (see p. 4) indicating left-lateral strike faulting. The Mercy fault zone, striking NE, may be a complementary shear plane to the Mercy Hot Springs fault; if so, movement on the latter fault would be right-lateral, conforming to movement on the San Andreas rift.

The Mercy ore bodies occurred in Franciscan sandstone; as the small-scale map shows, there are probably 1.4 miles of Franciscan between the Mercy mine and the major fault. Although mineralized outcrops in the Mercy area stand up above the surrounding surface, such prominent outcrops could be easily concealed by the terrace gravels covering the Franciscan between the Mercy mine and the fault.

Nothing is known of present claim ownership in this region; but the matter seems to warrant investigation.

MERCED CO  
FRESNO CO

N ADIT

Quat. Terrace  
Gravel

Open Pit Workings (?)

Sec. 32 T13S R10E  
SEC. 5 T 14S R 10E

5240  
3240  
2000

- QA1
- Quat. Terrace gravel
- Kaolinized sandstone shale
- White quartz vein
- Silicified fault zone



1" = 200'

MERCY MINE

