CONTACT INFORMATION
Mining Records Curator
Arizona Geological Survey
416 W. Congress St., Suite 100
Tucson, Arizona 85701
602-771-1601
http://www.azgs.az.gov
inquiries@azgs.az.gov

The following file is part of the Grover Heinrichs Mining Collection

**ACCESS STATEMENT**

These digitized collections are accessible for purposes of education and research. We have indicated what we know about copyright and rights of privacy, publicity, or trademark. Due to the nature of archival collections, we are not always able to identify this information. We are eager to hear from any rights owners, so that we may obtain accurate information. Upon request, we will remove material from public view while we address a rights issue.

**CONSTRAINTS STATEMENT**

The Arizona Geological Survey does not claim to control all rights for all materials in its collection. These rights include, but are not limited to: copyright, privacy rights, and cultural protection rights. The User hereby assumes all responsibility for obtaining any rights to use the material in excess of "fair use."

The Survey makes no intellectual property claims to the products created by individual authors in the manuscript collections, except when the author deeded those rights to the Survey or when those authors were employed by the State of Arizona and created intellectual products as a function of their official duties. The Survey does maintain property rights to the physical and digital representations of the works.

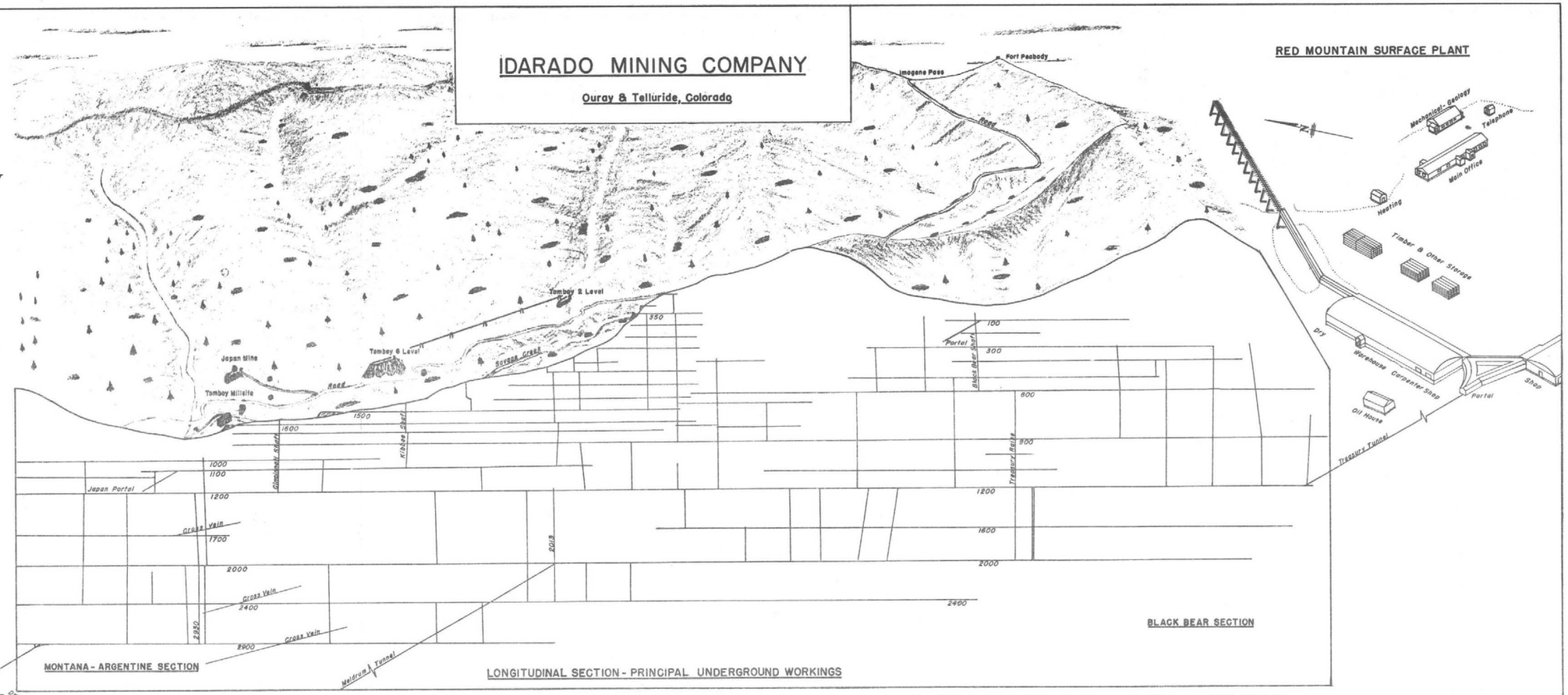
**QUALITY STATEMENT**

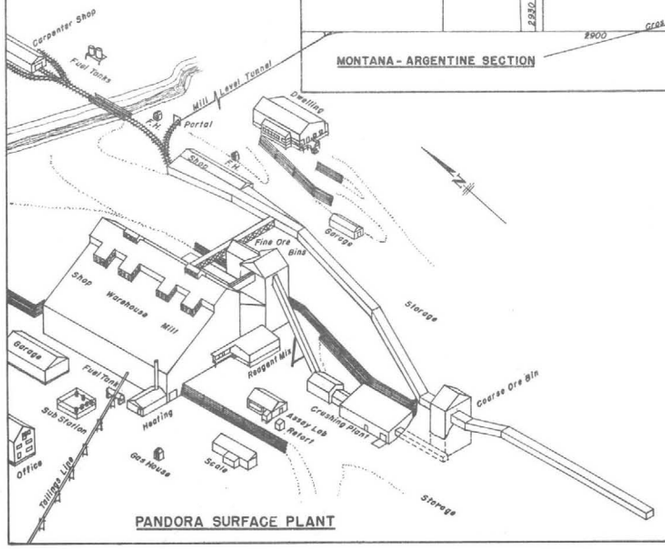
The Arizona Geological Survey is not responsible for the accuracy of the records, information, or opinions that may be contained in the files. The Survey collects, catalogs, and archives data on mineral properties regardless of its views of the veracity or accuracy of those data.

# IDARADO MINING COMPANY

**Ouray & Telluride, Colorado**

LOCATION MAP




THE OPERATIONS OF IDARADO MINING COMPANY ARE LOCATED HIGH IN THE SAN JUAN MOUNTAINS OF COLORADO'S WESTERN SLOPE, ONE OF THE MOST INTENSELY MINERALIZED DISTRICTS IN THE WORLD. THIS REGION IS PERHAPS MOST FAMOUS FOR ITS FISSURE-TYPE VEINS OF SUCH GREAT CONTINUITY AND EXTENT ALONG THEIR STRIKES THAT MANY OF THEM ARE TRACEABLE ALONG THEIR OUTCROPS FOR SEVERAL MILES. FOR THE MOST PART, THE MORE IMPORTANT VEINS ARE COMPOSED OF LOW-GRADE, COMPLEX SULFIDE ORES CONTAINING GOLD, SILVER, LEAD, COPPER, AND ZINC IN VARYING PROPORTIONS. GANGUE MINERALS ARE MOST COMMONLY QUARTZ, FLUORITE, CALCITE, AND RHONDONITE. THE MAJORITY OF THE MINING HAS SO FAR BEEN IN THE VOLCANIC FLOWS THAT OVERLIE THE SEDIMENTARIES IN THIS AREA.

EARLY-DAY ACTIVITY CONSISTED MAINLY OF THE MINING OF THE PRECIOUS METALS IN THE OXIDIZED ZONE ADJACENT TO THE OUTCROPS IN THE HIGH MOUNTAIN RIDGES AND BASINS. AS THE GOLD AND SILVER ORES WERE MINED DOWN DIP, THEIR TENOR DECREASED SO THAT OPERATORS WERE FORCED TO RELY MORE AND MORE ON THE RECOVERABLE BASE METALS IN ORDER TO SUSTAIN PROFITABLE OPERATIONS. TODAY THE MINES HAVE BECOME PRIMARILY BASE METAL MINES WITH RELATIVELY MINOR AMOUNTS OF GOLD AND SILVER.

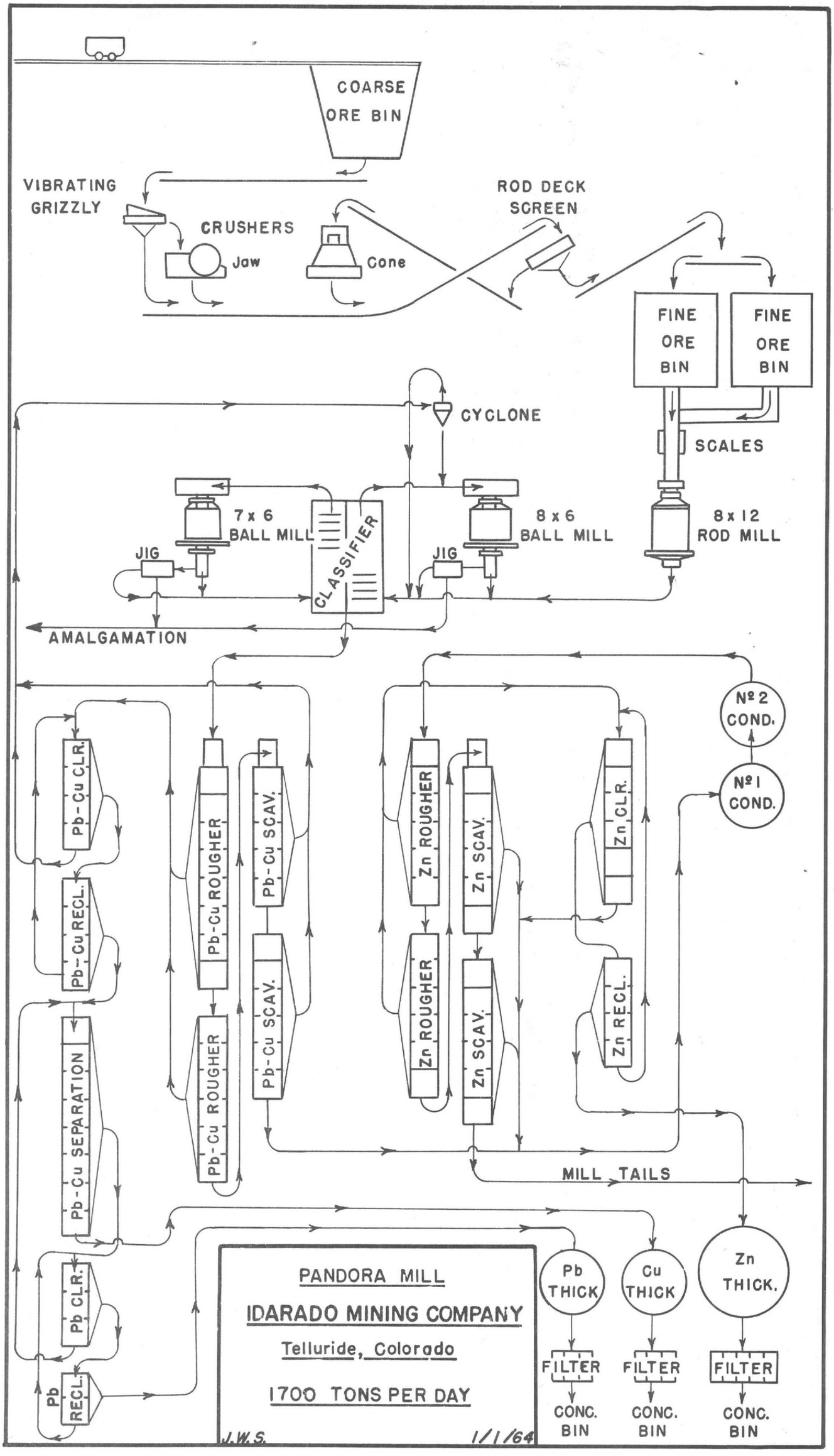
IDARADO WAS FORMED IN THE LATE 1930'S AS A CONSOLIDATION OF A NUMBER OF OLD MINING PROPERTIES, INCLUDING THE BLACK BEAR, TREASURY TUNNEL, BARSTOW, AND IMOGENE. BY LATER ACQUISITION, IT BECAME THE OWNER OF SUCH FAMOUS MINES AS THE SMUGGLER-UNION, LIBERTY BELL, TOMBOY, MONTANA, AND ARGENTINE. THUS, BY THE YEAR 1953, IDARADO HAD ACQUIRED A NUMBER OF VALUABLE AND CONTIGUOUS PROPERTIES COMPRISING A LARGE ACREAGE ON THE SAN MIGUEL-UNCOMPAHGRE WATERSHED IN SAN MIGUEL AND OURAY COUNTIES.

THE ELEVATION OF THIS MINING AREA RANGES FROM 9,000 FEET TO OVER 12,000 FEET ABOVE SEA LEVEL. MANY OF THE PEAKS IN THE AREA ARE FROM 13,000 TO 14,000 FEET HIGH AND CONSTITUTE SOME OF THE MOST RUGGED AND SCENIC TOPOGRAPHY IN THE UNITED STATES.

THE MINE WORKINGS ARE ACCESSIBLE THROUGH EITHER OF TWO ACTIVE PORTALS, THE MILL LEVEL PORTAL AT PANDORA NEAR TELLURIDE AT AN ELEVATION OF 9,070 FEET OR THE TREASURY TUNNEL PORTAL AT RED MOUNTAIN NEAR OURAY AT 10,620 FEET. THE DISTANCE FROM PORTAL TO PORTAL VIA THE MINE WORKINGS IS 5½ MILES, BUT IT IS 64 MILES AROUND THE MOUNTAIN BY HIGHWAY. AS ALL THE WORKINGS ARE INTER-CONNECTED BY DRIFTS AND RAISES, ACCESS TO ANY AREA IN THE MINE MAY BE HAD FROM EITHER PORTAL. AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THIS SOMEWHAT UNIQUE FEATURE, MINE EMPLOYEES HAVE THE OPTION OF LIVING IN SEVERAL WIDELY SCATTERED TOWNS, AND ROUGHLY HALF THE UNDERGROUND FORCE ENTERS AT EACH PORTAL.

ALL BROKEN ORE FOR THE PANDORA MILL IS BROUGHT DOWN TO THE MILL LEVEL HAULAGE TUNNEL THROUGH A SERIES OF STRATEGICALLY PLACED ORE PASSES, FROM WHICH IT IS GATHERED BY THE HAULAGE CREWS. THE 1700 TON-PER-DAY MILL OPERATES THREE SHIFTS A DAY, FIVE DAYS PER WEEK AND PRODUCES LEAD, COPPER, AND ZINC FLOTATION CONCENTRATES. THESE CONCENTRATES ARE TRUCKED TO MONTROSE WHERE THEY ARE TRANSFERRED TO RAILROAD CARS FOR SHIPMENT TO SMELTERS AT EL PASO AND AMARILLO, TEXAS, AND TACOMA, WASHINGTON.

J.Walter Socha - March, 1970


COARSE ORE BIN
VIBRATING GRIZZLY
CRUSHERS
Jaw
Cone
ROD DECK SCREEN
FINE ORE BIN
FINE ORE BIN
CYCLONE
SCALES
7 x 6 BALL MILL
CLASSIFIER
8 x 6 BALL MILL
8 x 12 ROD MILL
JIG
JIG
AMALGAMATION
Pb-Cu CLR.
Pb-Cu RECL.
Pb-Cu SEPARATION
Pb CLR.
Pb RECL.
Pb-Cu ROUGHER
Pb-Cu ROUGHER
Pb-Cu SCAV.
Pb-Cu SCAV.
Zn ROUGHER
Zn ROUGHER
Zn SCAV.
Zn SCAV.
Zn CLR.
Zn RECL.
Nº 2 COND.
Nº 1 COND.
MILL TAILS
Pb THICK
Cu THICK
Zn THICK.
FILTER
FILTER
FILTER
CONC. BIN
CONC. BIN
CONC. BIN
PANDORA MILL
IDARADO MINING COMPANY
Telluride, Colorado
1700 TONS PER DAY
J.W.S.
1/1/64