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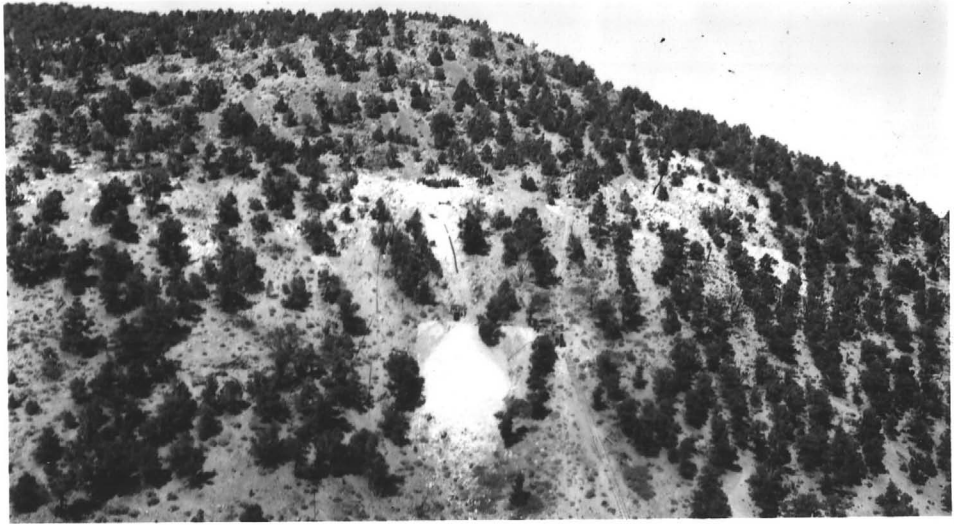

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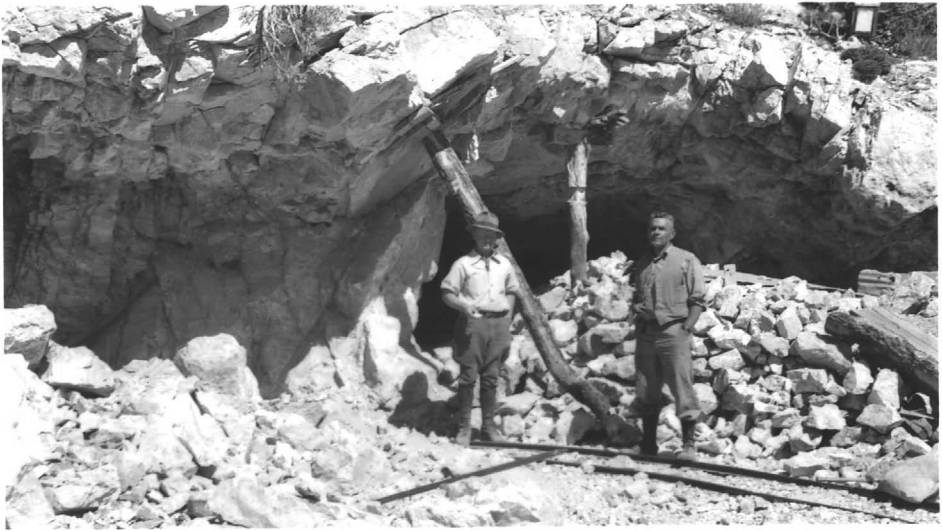

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October 1st, 1942.

Mr. John A. McDonald,
912 Russ Building,
San Francisco, Calif.

To Edward Wisser, Dr.

To professional services:

Examination of Fish Creek Mt. and Speckerling Mt. tungsten prospects, Sept.15th-16th,1942, 2 days @ $50.00....$100.00

Examination of Paradise Peak and Murphy quicksilver properties, Sept.21-24th,1942, 4 days @ $50.00..... 200.00

$300.00

October 2nd, 1942.

Mr.Allan A.Ryan Jr.,
1 East 57th Street,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Ryan:

At Mr.McDonald's suggestion I am writing you about several quicksilver properties that seem of interest.

Mina District, Nevada.

Paradise Peak.- An isolated small mountain range about 45 miles by road NE of Mina. The O'Brien prospect lies near the top of the range but can be reached by car, although the last three miles of road are poor.

Paradise Peak is made up chiefly of Triassic and Jurassic limestones and dolomite. The most striking feature of the O'Brien prospect is a thick bed of crystalline limestone, practically marble, capped by dark marly shale and overlying thin-bedded, impure limestone. The thick bed appears to carry most of the cinnabar. It has been explored by an open cut perhaps 60' long, by two small shafts, and a few cuts; but the exploration seems to have been done without knowledge that the ore is confine to a particular bed, because a tunnel was driven 100 ' vertically below the outcrop of the bed without a chance of reaching the bed, since the latter lies quite flat.

In two cuts, the two small shafts, and in part of the opencut the bed shows abundant cinnabar-good ore. But in the inside of te the opencut, here a sort of wide tunnel, the ore has given out in the bed. There is a suggestion that ore within the bed is associated with one or more calcite veins.

The prospect has features in common with the Terlingua district, Texas: the shaly capping, the massive ore bed, and the calcite veins. Terlingua ore is very rich, and although trickily distributed, its richness makes it worth the hunting for. Paradise Peak seems to offer chances for a small but rich mine. A few thousand dollars spent in systematic trenching of the ore bed outcrop, with perhaps some tunneling would probably tell the story

Costa Mine.- The Costa mine lies on a low ridge about 32 miles by road NE of Mina. The ridge is wholly composed of igneous rock, probably dacite. The surrounding country is mainly limestone and shale. The south portion of the ridge shows the dacite intensely bleached and softened; quicksilver showings are confined to this area. There seems to be some cinnabar throughout this bleached rock; but the better showings are along fractures which appear to radiate from the center of the dacite mass; the latter may be a plug. A man named Murphy, now working the property on lease, has sunk a 35 ' shaft on one of these fractures, and opened up an ore shoot 40 ' long and 20 ' wide in the bottom workings. He is picking the eyes out of this ore body to feed his two-tube retort, which produces about 2 flasks per month. The ore shoot as a whole, after the high-grade is removed, will probably run 12 lbs. per ton.

Extensive tests must be run to tell whether all the bleached rock is mineable. E.C.Bierce, who showed me the property, claims it all runs 1-2 lbs., and that fines running 6 lbs. can be screened from this, with a ratio of 4 tons coarse rejects to 1 ton fine ore. Since the bleached rock is soft and could be mined by shovel, it would be attractive if Bierce is right. If he is wrong, there is still a chance for the property : enough high-grade shoots like the one Murphy is working may exist to make a furnace operation. Whether this is possible or not may hinge on whether the dacite represents the remnants of a lava flow sitting on limestone and shale, or whether it is a plug going down deep. If a flow, it will bottom at shallow depth, and probably no ore will be found beneath it. If a plug, the bleached part of it may still give out at shallow depth, and with it, probably the ore. Hence a drill-hole should be put down within the bleached area to see how far down the bleached rock goes. If it goes down several hundred feet, the mine is probably a good gamble; if not, the mine is not unless surface tests show that the whole bleached area is commercial

Cloverdale Mine.

The Cloverdale mine, Mendocino Co., Calif., lies at the extreme NW end of the highly productive Mayacmas quicksilver belt, containing such well-known mines as the Aetna, Oathill, Great Western and Mirabel. Known production from the Cloverdale totals about 22,000 flasks. I have not seen the mine; the following data comes from C.N.Schuette and others.

Holdings total over 400 acres. The outcrop is strong and persistent, and the claims are said to cover 4000 ' along the strike. Ore occurs in a thick chert formation; the footwall is sandstone. Ore in chert in California is commonly high-grade and free from dust, etc., furnacing well. At the Cloverdale most production came from a great surface cut; the ore being so readily accessible, underground exploration was slighted. There are however several tunnels; No.5 is the lowest opened; No.6 below it is caved. According to Andrew Rocca, who mined

in No.6 tunnel in 1917, a good body of ore was found which was mined only about 10 ' below the level,leaving good ore in the floor of the stope. Beside this ore, I am told and do not doubt that there are a number of chances for ore laterally as well as this one at depth.

The Cloverdale is equipped with a 75 ton furnace (or larger camp, compressor, some trucks etc.-practically ready to start up, I am told. Like the Aetna and most California mines,there is said to be considerable surface ore that could be handled with a shovel. While I am not yet familiar with details of the Cloverdale, my associate C.N.Schuette has always spoken very well of it, so much so, that if I had had my choice of the Aetna and the Cl Cloverdale last spring, without having seen either, I should have picked the Cloverdale. It has the advantage over the Aetna that the ore is confined to one great "veih",as yet but little explorw underground;it may therefore be more cheaply and quickly explored.

To open No.6 tunnel would cost about$6000;if the ore is found,probably a lower tunnel should be driven,costing perhaps $15,000. I should say that the sum that should be available to put the Aetna in production is about $50,000,and that the mine can probably be put in production within 6-8 months from the start of operations.

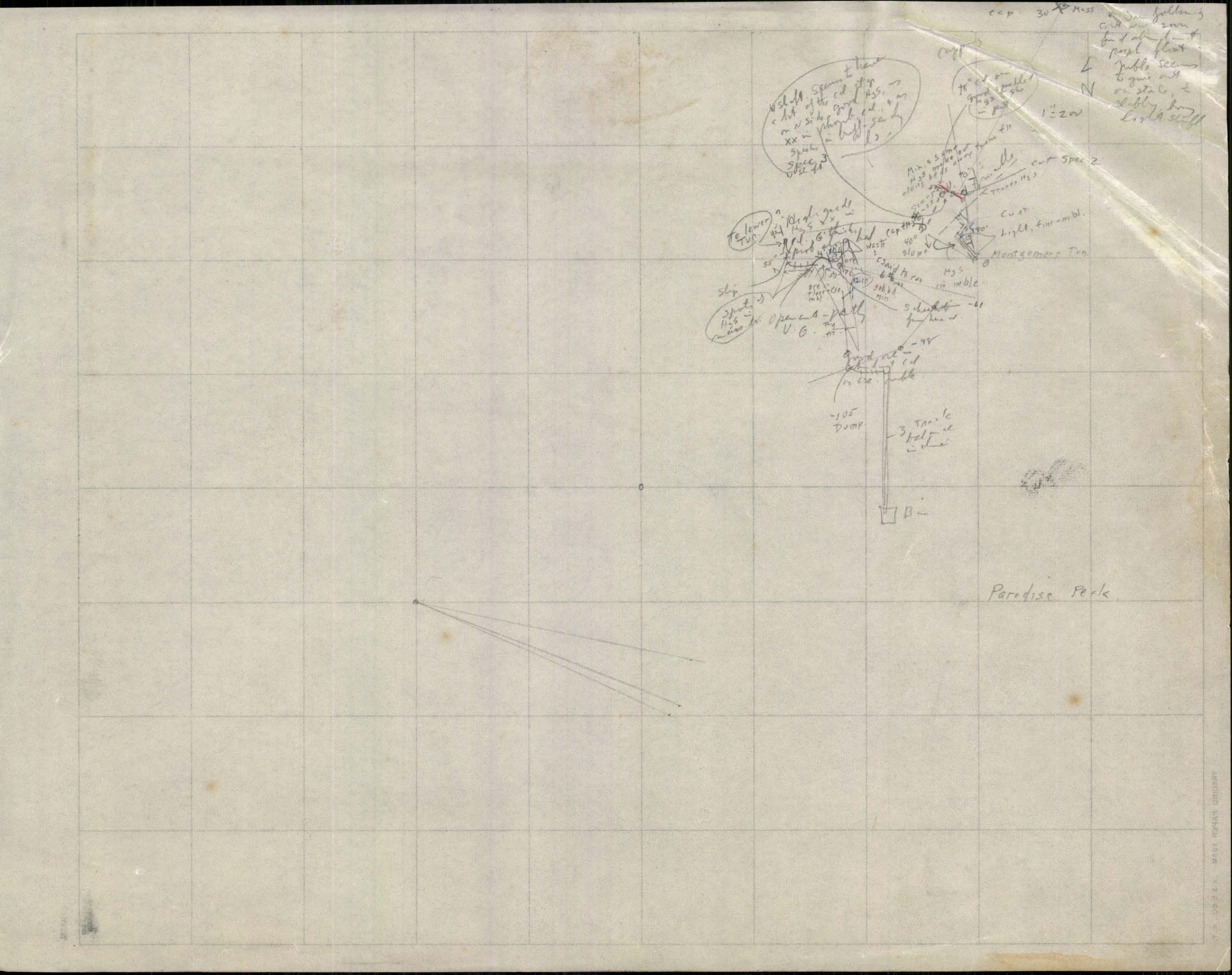
General.

If both the Nevada properties proved up,they would make a combined operation. A furnace could be erected at the Murphy property,where water is available,and a 14 mile road easily made to the Paradise Peak property. A 40 ton plant is at present under option for $12,000,and a similar one,apparently just as good, for $7500. These properties could probably be put in production more quickly than the Cloverdale,if they pan out at all,and the grade might be higher. But they would be small and probably short-lived. The Cloverdale is more cumbersome,but offers chances for a more permanent operation. It is only a two-hour drive from the Aetna to the Cloverdale. It is hard to get men like Richardson;but if the Cloverdale were aquired it could be run with a man of the foreman type,and Richardson could run over once or twice a week to keep tab on it.

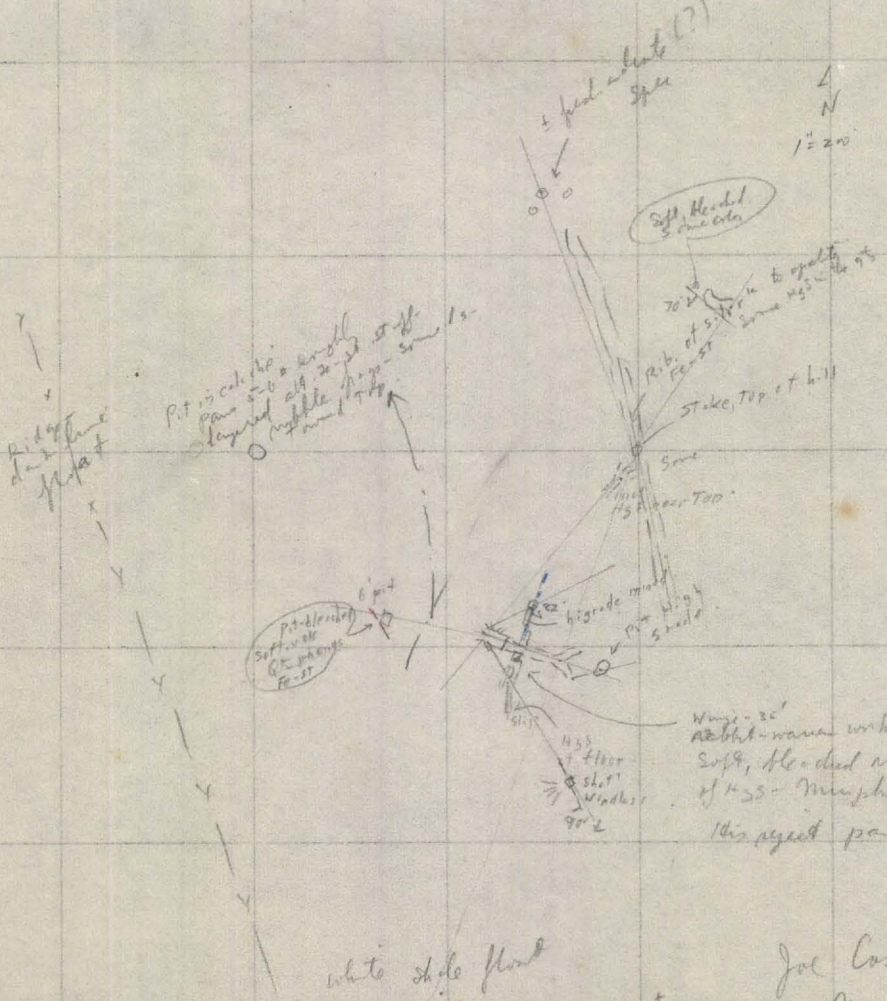
Yours very truly,

Edward Wisser

CC J.A.McDonald.


Montgomery Tun.
Paradise Park

2 Tube retort

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CMC #2 N-S
#3
Harry McNamara
Joe Costa
Jerry Costa
Simon Athens M.D.
Lve 1/17/36

Joe Costa } Property
Mina