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James Doyle Sell Mining Collection

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ASARCO Incorporated
Tucson Arizona

August 13, 1975

TO: W. L. Kurtz

FROM: J. D. Sell

Wickenburg Gold Placers
Maricopa County, Arizona

In regard to the speed letter from J. H. Kennedy of Wickenburg, concerning placer gold and lode gold and platinum, the Arizona Bureau of Mines Bulletin 168 on gold placers reports on the Vulture placers which are above and below the Vulture Mine in the same drainage, the San Domingo placers located six miles southeast of Wickenburg, and the Hassayampa placers located in the river but mainly below San Domingo Wash.

All have produced some gold. 1934-1948 figures, respectively, were \$6,088.00, \$16,379.00, and \$842.00.

All suppose that the quartz veins in the underlying schist bedrock carry the values, but no production of any consequence, except for the Vulture Mine, has been reported from the lode material.

The San Domingo placers along Rogers Wash were apparently "...tested by over 200 holes; an area of 300 to 350 acres, 2-1/2 miles wide and 1,000 feet long was found to range from 1 to 20 feet to bedrock and to average from 40 to 80 cents per cubic yard. Sanger Wash was sampled by A. P. Irvine, of Wickenburg, and found to average 43 cents per cubic yard." This is equivalent to \$0.54 to \$1.07 per ton of gravel at the \$35.00 per ounce price.

The Weaver-Rich Hill placers in the vicinity of the Octave Mine north of Wickenburg have been the most productive (1934-49 was \$62,049.00) and have been extensively worked. Newspaper accounts continue to hold optimism for a new dry or electrostatic or some other process to rework the large alluvial fan.

Asarco examined the San Domingo Placers in 1944 (Stephens, Aa-13.19A.19) and stated that test pits would be necessary to confirm the previous work, but that some 4 to 5 million cubic yards with the value of 40 cents might be available in San Domingo Wash. A hand written note in 1945 by Stephens stated that General Dredging (of Yuba Consolidated) had examined the placers and found that they contained such large boulders that they could not be worked economically.

August 13, 1975

The same file also contains a report by the Virginia City Mining Company on the placers and comments on the work in progress up into 1962. Platinum group metals are mentioned to be present. Two groups were placering in the area, one a 40 tpd dry screening mill and an unspecified tonnage portable dry placer machine which have been mentioned in the trade journals.

The Weaver Creek placers at Octave were examined by J. F. Lord in 1961 (File Aa-25.15.23A) when the property was held by Western Gold & Uranium Company. His sampling did not confirm the gold values previously suggested and, with the large boulder distribution, did not recommend a more comprehensive sampling program. Water for working the property also appeared rather slim and was a major concern.


James D. Sell

JDS:1b



AMERICAN SMELTING AND REFINING COMPANY
SOUTHWESTERN EXPLORATION DIVISION
P. O. BOX 5747, TUCSON, ARIZONA 85703

August 20, 1975

1150 NORTH 7TH AVENUE
TELEPHONE 602-792-3010

Mr. J. H. Kennedy
P.O. Box 1299
Wickenburg, Arizona 85358

Dear Mr. Kennedy:

Your letter regarding gold properties near Wickenburg, Arizona has been forwarded to me for reply.

Please be advised that we are not interested in examining your placer-lode property at this time. Thank you for thinking of Asarco and I wish you success in developing your claims.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "W. L. Kurtz".

W. L. Kurtz
Manager of Exploration

WLK:1b

cc: JDSell A small, illegible handwritten mark or scribble at the end of the distribution list.

from the desk of

GEORGE J. STATHIS

11-9-73

TO Jim Sell

Could you turn
over to me ~~the~~

Barry Watson's
Wickenburg data
on Monday.

Thanks,

Geo

I plan to get up
there next week.

attached are: work sheets of: Wickenburg 7 1/2;
& Red Peach 7 1/2. 2 sheets of each.

11/9/73

ops, never got them back.