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James Doyle Sell Mining Collection

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AMERICAN SMELTING AND REFINING COMPANY  
Tucson  
Arizona

August 8, 1950

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. WILSON

GERONIMO MINING COMPANY  
Near Geronimo  
Graham County, Arizona

My attention was drawn to the area north of Geronimo when I, by chance, noted on our property location maps that a mining prospect listed as the Turnbull Group was situated here in a region well covered by post mineral flow rocks. The group was described by G. S. Holmes, Jr. (digest of 1918 report in our files) as a disseminated copper prospect 14 miles north of Geronimo. It appeared quite likely that a window in the lava flows must exist here — showing similar mineralization, possibly, to that near Safford, some 30 miles southeasterly— consequently an investigation was undertaken, although the Holmes report was considered nothing more than an early-day promoter's prospectus.

Inquiring locally, I found that what was known as the old Geronimo Mine was situated a few miles north of Geronimo. Ed McEuen, a rancher, recalled that he had seen two small churn drill rigs on the property around 1920. The county recorder at Safford had no record of the Geronimo Mine, but did have listed the Turnbull Group situated three miles west of Indian Springs. Later I found that this location is probably on the southwest slope of Turnbull Peak. Since this position plots 14 miles west of Geronimo, it is apparent that "north" must have been accidentally substituted for "west" in the digest of Holmes' report. The necessary corrections have been made on our property location maps.

The Geronimo prospect was visited on August 3rd. The trip, about 25 miles in all, was made by saddle horse with rancher Burt Hinton as guide. Using aerial photographs borrowed from the Ground Water Division of the U. S. G. S. the position of the property was determined to be seven miles north 10 degrees east of Geronimo.

The workings of the old Geronimo Mining Company, amounting to three shallow shafts and one short drift, are situated along the bottom of a northeast-trending canyon which had cut through the late Tertiary lava flows and exposed for a few hundred feet Paleozoic (?) limestones. This formation is rather thick-bedded, light gray to white in color, and cherty. Little more than traces of mineralization were noted; the best of this occurred in an irregular breccia zone, up to two feet in width, in the limestone. On a small dump from a shaft possibly 15 feet in depth there were several chunks of siliceous breccia which contained a few small specks of galena, some yellow powder — probably lead oxide, and a few grains of azurite.

In the volcanic flow rocks which overlies the limestones unconformably a yellow-green tuff bed occurred. The material resembled carnotite, but samples taken showed no radioactivity by counter test.

Obviously, the prospect described above is of no interest. No evidence of churn or other drilling was found. No other "windows" in the volcanic cover were noted in the vicinity.