

Forward

The following prospectus of Placer claim 310846 is a gathering together of data from various sources. It may initially appear disorganized but so in an attempt to explain and put the data in context I have written this forward.

The claim was staked by me in 1993 and we did nothing that year as we also started Wolf Ridge General store that year. In 1994 two friends Eli and Morel worked on our claim for the summer. After some disappointing testing on the southern end of the claim they moved down into Mckorkel's old hydraulic pit in the centre of the claim. In almost the middle of the pit was a small chunk of virgin looking material thought to be left there as it probably held a wing of the old sluice. This material was quite rich and after washing about 200 yards in two days they gleaned over two troy pounds of quite coarse gold. After this ran out they decided rather than test the deep channel they would move to the present river bottom on the north end of the claim. This was quite shallow ground only 3-4 ft and appeared worked. They continued on this gravel bar for the rest of the summer and gleaned over 1 troy pound for their efforts.

No work was done other than assessment until late 1996. Joe Hidbur spent about 3 weeks testing using an excavator and small shaker wash plant. Joe did this testing while in the employ of Angel Jade mines who were mining a channel adjoining me to the south. The main focus of these tests was to determine if the channel they were following continued on through our claim. This appears to be the case as their tests in holes 19-24 indicated that the channel continues north and seemed to exit through the eastern pit wall.

After some consultations and explorations by Joe and I, we decided to try and test the centre of the channel that was being followed by the Mckorkel Bros... Joe decided the best way to do this would be to build a trail on top of the clay layer to the centre of the channel and dig down. This did not work well as water seeps out of the face just at that point. This caused the excavator to keep slipping down the face on the wet clay. The time allowed for testing quickly ran out and Joe had to quit for the year. In spite of not being able to test the channel centre Joe told me

that he had recommended to Angel Jade that they purchase our claim. This never came about.

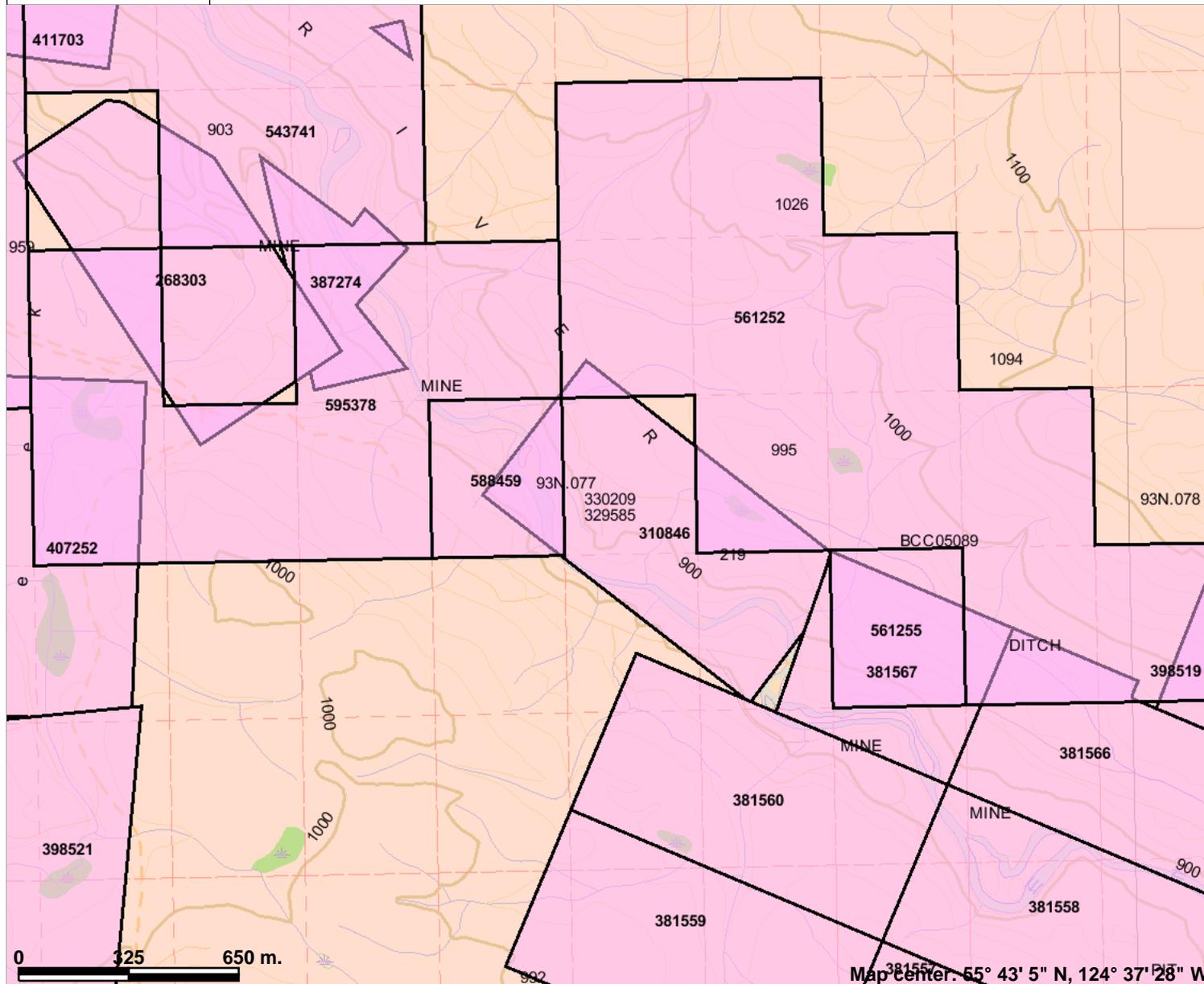
Since then we have only done required assessment work and no extra as we have been very busy building up Wolf Ridge General store.

Other materials I have added to the prospectus came from the B.C. mining archives and some excerpts from Ralph Hall's books on the area. I have also added several mining maps. This shows that recently our claim has been surrounded by new claims. The legacy claims to the south and the new cell amalgamation to the east and north all belong to Angel Jade Mines. The new cell amalgam to the north and west belong to W.A.M. Claim service. One cell overstaking the northwest corner belongs to Leonard Lindstrom.

The hydraulic pit was on the claim was created by Mckorkel Bros. who mined this property and the adjoining one to the south for 13 yrs. From 1929 until 1942 when they had to suspend operations due to WWII. The operation at the time of suspension had 30 employees. The equipment was stashed in such a way that shows they intended to come back but never did. Where the claim intersects the Germansen culvert is where a 25 oz nugget was found by Mckorkels.

Victor Dyck owner

Internet Mapping Framework



Legend

- Indian Reserves
- National Parks
- Parks
- Placer Tenure (current)
- Placer Claim
- Placer Lease
- Placer Reserves (current)
- Placer Claim Designation
- Placer Lease Designation
- No Staking Reserve
- Conditional Reserve
- Release Required Reserve
- Surface Restriction
- Recreation Area
- Others
- MTO Grid (MTO)
- Blocked by MEM
- Other
- Integrated Cadastral Fabric
- Survey Parcels
- BCGS Grid
- Contours (TRIM)
- Contour - Index
- Contour - Index.Indefinite
- Contour - Index.Depression
- Contour - Index.Depression Indefinite
- Contour - Intermediate
- Contour - Intermediate.Indefinite
- Contour - Intermediate.Depression
- Contour - Intermediate.Depression Indefinite
- Area of Exclusion
- Area of Indefinite Contours
- Annotation (1:20K)

Scale: 1:17,876

This map is a user generated static output from an Internet mapping site and is for general reference only. Data layers that appear on this map may or may not be accurate, current, or otherwise reliable. THIS MAP IS NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION.

Map center: 55° 43' 5" N, 124° 37' 28" W

310846

AREA BEING TESTED:

Vicks Lease

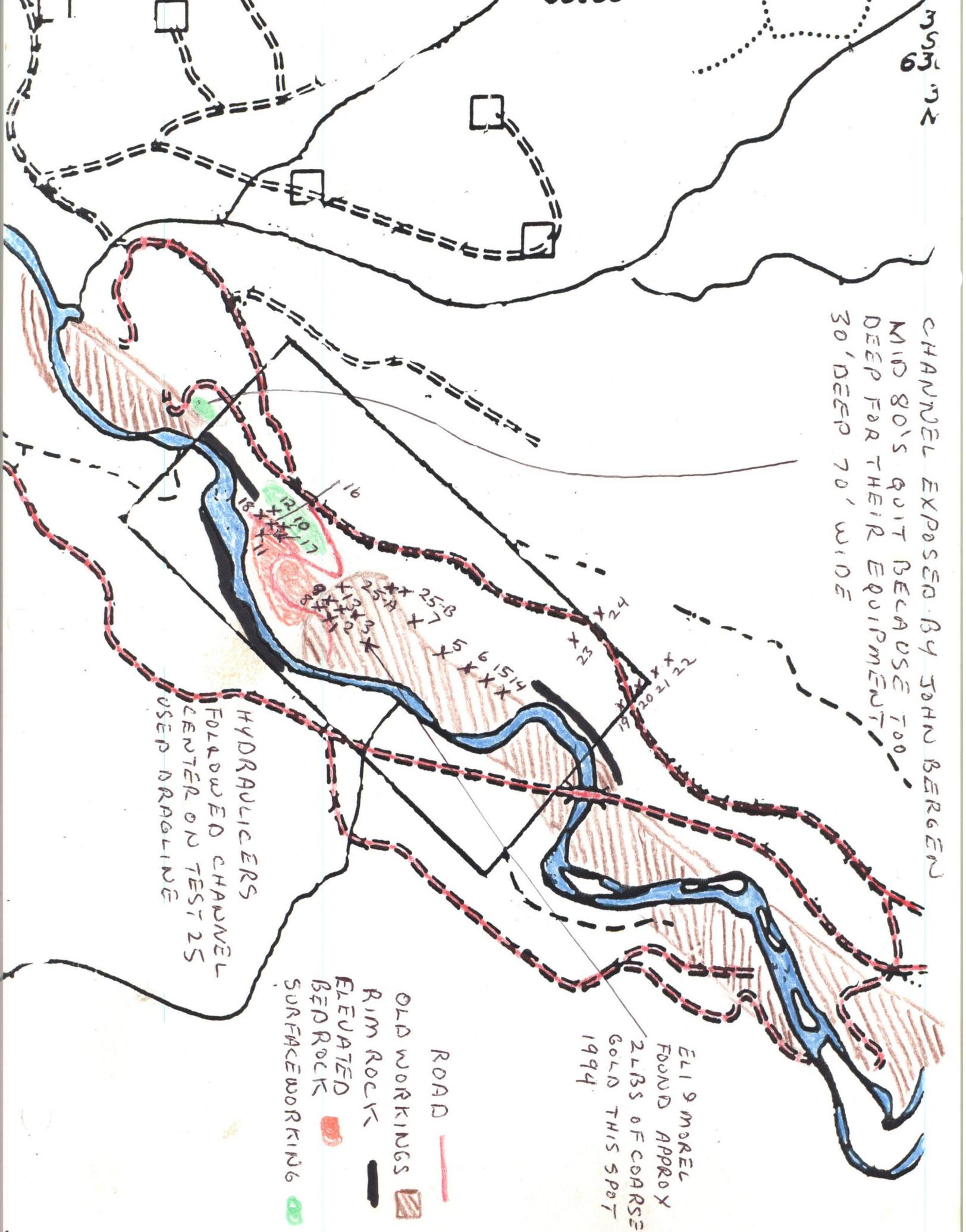
MS 632

CHANNEL EXPOSED BY JOHN BERGEN
MID 80'S QUIT BECAUSE TOO
DEEP FOR THEIR EQUIPMENT
30' DEEP 70' WIDE

HYDRAULICERS
FOLLOWED CHANNEL
CENTER ON TESTS
USED DRAGLINE

ELI SMOREL
FOUND APPROX
2LBS OF COARSE
GOLD THIS SPOT
1994

- ROAD ———
- OLD WORKINGS 
- RIM ROCK ———
- ELEVATED BEDROCK 
- SURFACE WORKING 

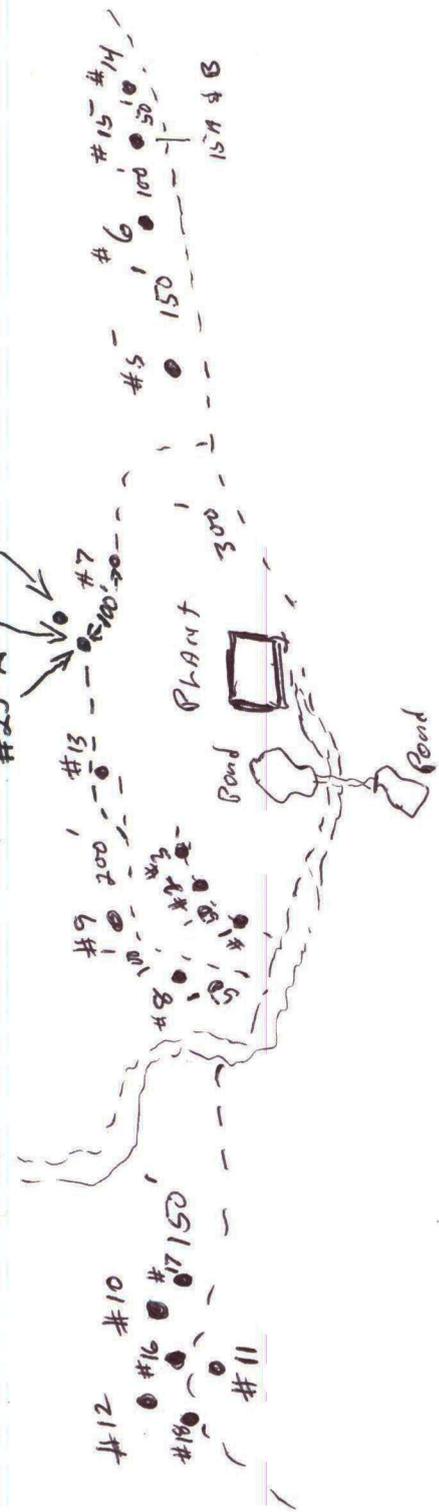


Vicks LEASE 1996

MAIN Access Road

Steep Hill & CLAY BANKS

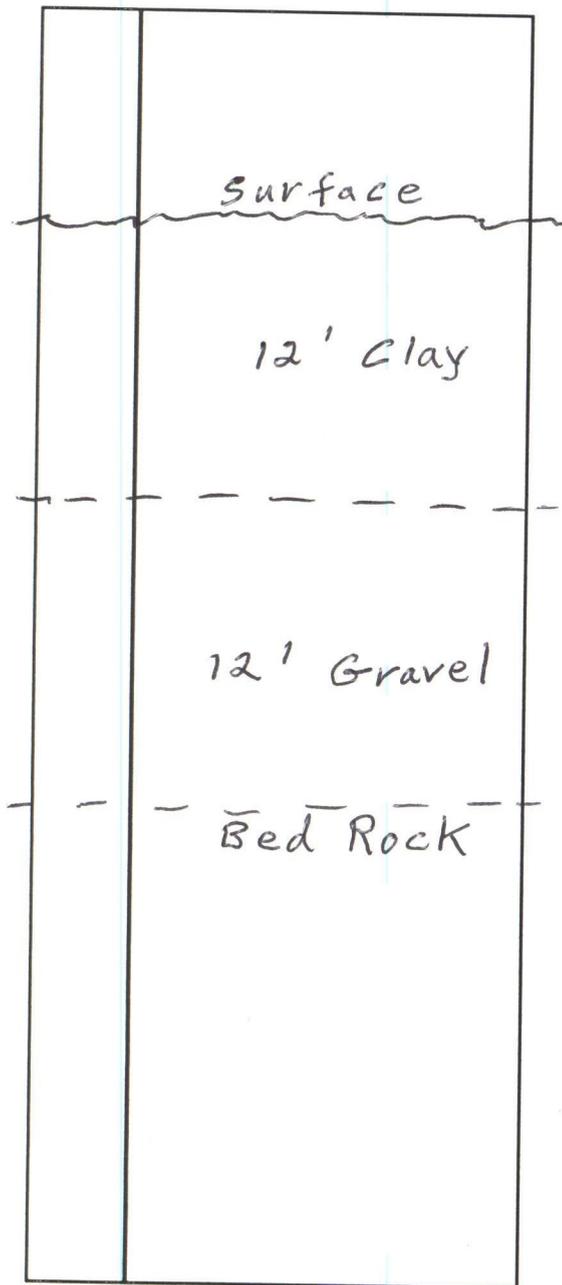
#25-A 20' #25-B



RIVER

DATE: Sept. 8/96

AREA BEING TESTED: Vicks Lease



TEST PIT #: 1

TOTAL YARDS TESTED: _____

DEPTH OF TEST: 24 Feet

GRAMS RECOVERED: _____

TEST PIT #: 2

TOTAL YARDS TESTED: 0

DEPTH OF TEST: 35 Ft. Clay to Bed Rock

GRAMS RECOVERED: 0

TEST PIT #: 3

TOTAL YARDS TESTED: _____

DEPTH OF TEST: 10 Ft. Clay to Bed Rock

GRAMS RECOVERED: _____

TEST PIT #: _____

TOTAL YARDS TESTED: _____

DEPTH OF TEST: _____

GRAMS RECOVERED: _____

TEST PIT #: _____

TOTAL YARDS TESTED: _____

DEPTH OF TEST: _____

GRAMS RECOVERED: _____

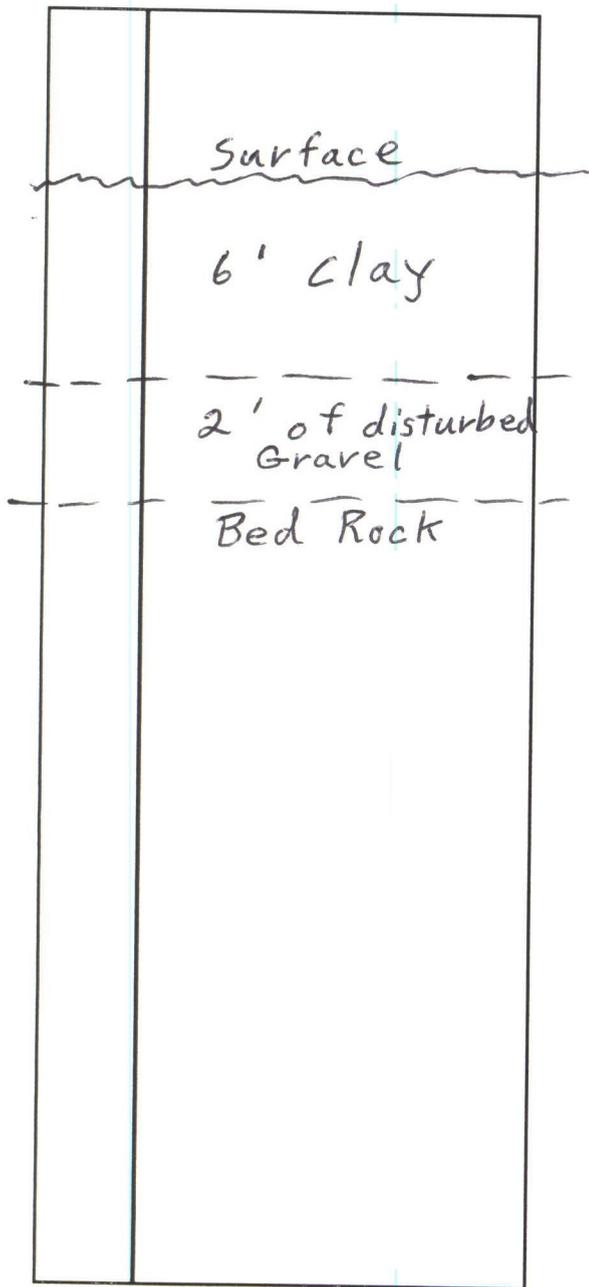
COMMENTS: Test was taken against slope of hill. (Test Pit #1)

Test Pits # 2 & 3 were taken in a worked-out area.

TESTED BY: Joe Vidler

DATE: Sept. 8/96

AREA BEING TESTED: Vicks Lease



TEST PIT #: 4

TOTAL YARDS TESTED: _____

DEPTH OF TEST: 8 Feet

GRAMS RECOVERED: _____

TEST PIT #: _____

TOTAL YARDS TESTED: _____

DEPTH OF TEST: _____

GRAMS RECOVERED: _____

TEST PIT #: _____

TOTAL YARDS TESTED: _____

DEPTH OF TEST: _____

GRAMS RECOVERED: _____

TEST PIT #: _____

TOTAL YARDS TESTED: _____

DEPTH OF TEST: _____

GRAMS RECOVERED: _____

TEST PIT #: _____

TOTAL YARDS TESTED: _____

DEPTH OF TEST: _____

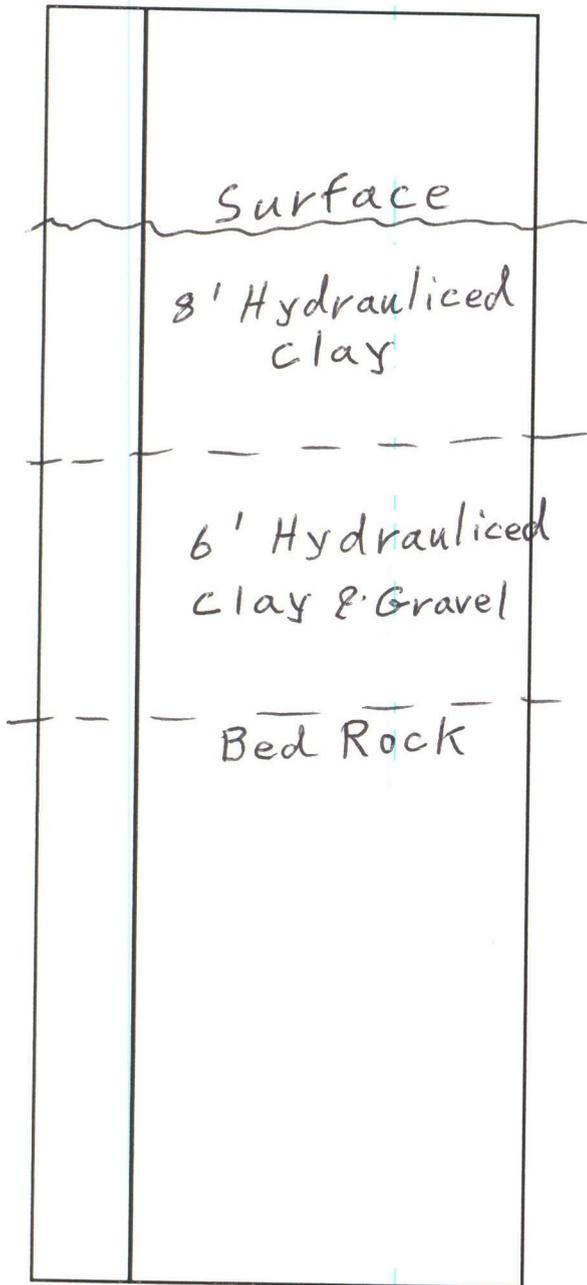
GRAMS RECOVERED: _____

COMMENTS: Pit # 4 was dug in the
hydrauliced area.

TESTED BY: Joe Bidler

DATE: Sept. 9 / 96

AREA BEING TESTED: Vicks Lease



TEST PIT #: 5-A

TOTAL YARDS TESTED: _____
DEPTH OF TEST: 14 Ft. Hydrauliced
GRAMS RECOVERED: _____

TEST PIT #: _____

TOTAL YARDS TESTED: _____
DEPTH OF TEST: _____
GRAMS RECOVERED: _____

TEST PIT #: _____

TOTAL YARDS TESTED: _____
DEPTH OF TEST: _____
GRAMS RECOVERED: _____

TEST PIT #: _____

TOTAL YARDS TESTED: _____
DEPTH OF TEST: _____
GRAMS RECOVERED: _____

TEST PIT #: _____

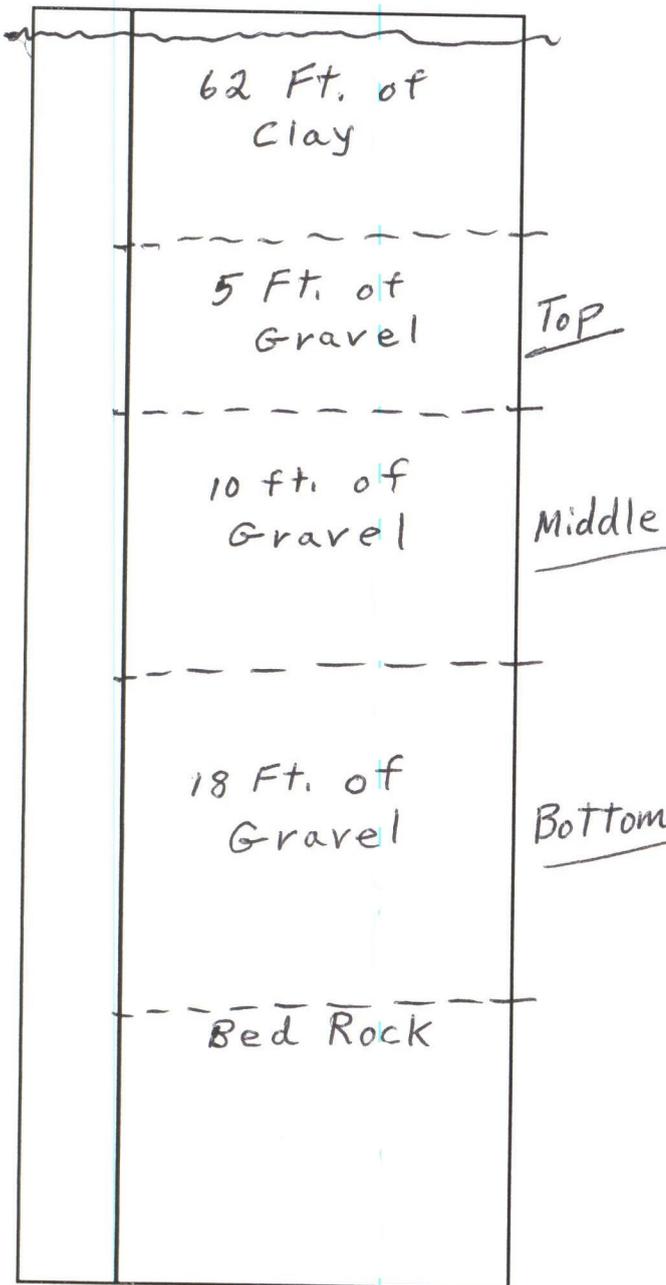
TOTAL YARDS TESTED: _____
DEPTH OF TEST: _____
GRAMS RECOVERED: _____

COMMENTS: Test pite # 5-A was in a hydrauliced
are, top 8 Ft. was clay, bottom 6 Ft. was mixed
clay & gravel to bed-rock.

TESTED BY: Joe Vidber

DATE: Sept. 9 / 96

AREA BEING TESTED: Vicks Lease



TEST PIT #: 5-B - Top

TOTAL YARDS TESTED: 10

DEPTH OF TEST: 5.33 Feet

GRAMS RECOVERED: 0.9

TEST PIT #: 5-B - Middle

TOTAL YARDS TESTED: 10

DEPTH OF TEST: 10 Ft.

GRAMS RECOVERED: 1.3

TEST PIT #: 5-B - Bottom

TOTAL YARDS TESTED: 20

DEPTH OF TEST: 18 Ft.

GRAMS RECOVERED: 5.0 .25/40

TEST PIT #: _____

TOTAL YARDS TESTED: _____

DEPTH OF TEST: _____

GRAMS RECOVERED: _____

TEST PIT #: _____

TOTAL YARDS TESTED: _____

DEPTH OF TEST: _____

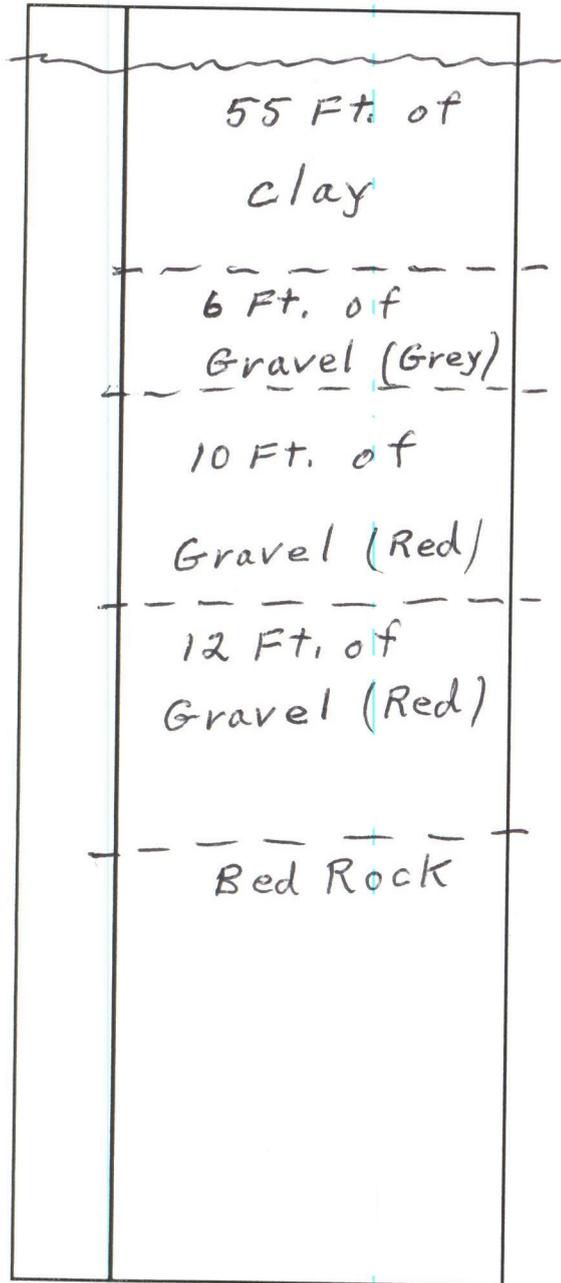
GRAMS RECOVERED: _____

COMMENTS: Test pit # 5-B was dug up
against the Hydrauliced area across
from the standing A frame.
This test was run Sept. 12 / 96

TESTED BY: Joe Bidber

DATE: Sept. 9/96

AREA BEING TESTED: Vicks Lease



TEST PIT #: 6 Top

TOTAL YARDS TESTED: 10

DEPTH OF TEST: 6 Ft.

GRAMS RECOVERED: 4.1

Ran
Sept. 13/96

TEST PIT #: 6 Middle

TOTAL YARDS TESTED: 10

DEPTH OF TEST: 10 Ft.

GRAMS RECOVERED: 1.6

TEST PIT #: 6 Bottom

TOTAL YARDS TESTED: 20

DEPTH OF TEST: 12 Ft.

GRAMS RECOVERED: 3.6

.18/40

TEST PIT #: _____

TOTAL YARDS TESTED: _____

DEPTH OF TEST: _____

GRAMS RECOVERED: _____

TEST PIT #: _____

TOTAL YARDS TESTED: _____

DEPTH OF TEST: _____

GRAMS RECOVERED: _____

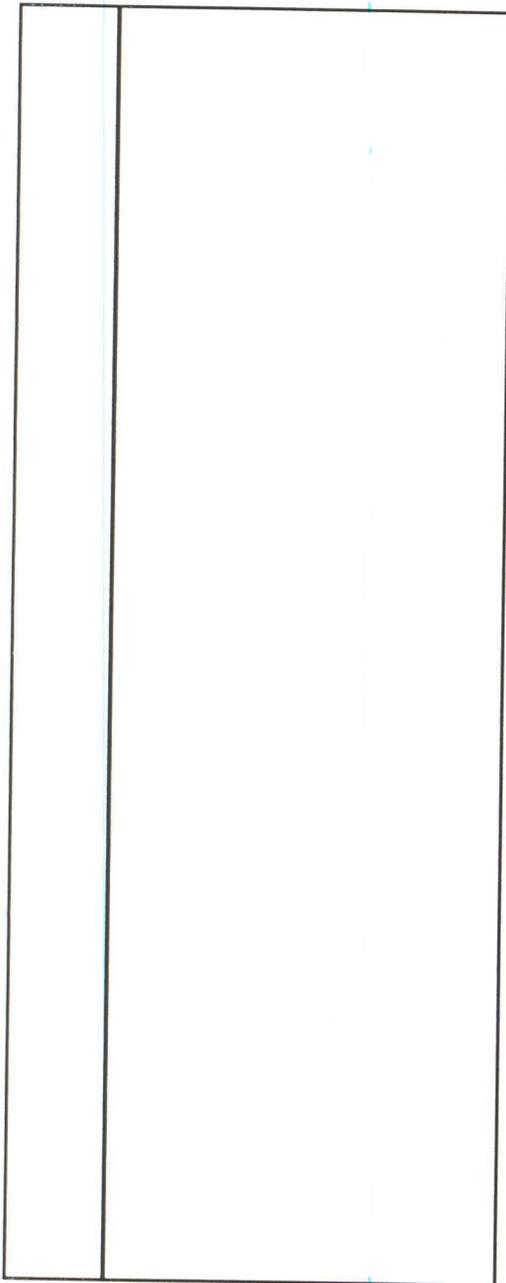
COMMENTS: This test was run Sept. 13/96.

Test pit # 6 was dug up against
a hydrauliced area, gravel layer is
28 feet deep and clay over-burden 55 feet deep.

TESTED BY: Joe Vidler

DATE: Sept 10 196

AREA BEING TESTED: Vicks Lease



TEST PIT #: 7

TOTAL YARDS TESTED: 0
DEPTH OF TEST: 25 FT. Clay
GRAMS RECOVERED: 0

TEST PIT #: 8

TOTAL YARDS TESTED: 0
DEPTH OF TEST: 20 FT. Clay
GRAMS RECOVERED: 0

TEST PIT #: 9

TOTAL YARDS TESTED: 0
DEPTH OF TEST: 22 Ft.
GRAMS RECOVERED: 0
Clay with a little gravel mixed in places (No bed Rock)

TEST PIT #: _____

TOTAL YARDS TESTED: _____
DEPTH OF TEST: _____
GRAMS RECOVERED: _____

TEST PIT #: _____

TOTAL YARDS TESTED: _____
DEPTH OF TEST: _____
GRAMS RECOVERED: _____

COMMENTS: Pit # 7: Bottom started showing clay and gravel mixed and no bed-rock.

Pit # 8: Clay with some gravel mixed in places and no bed rock. This pit is located above pit #1.

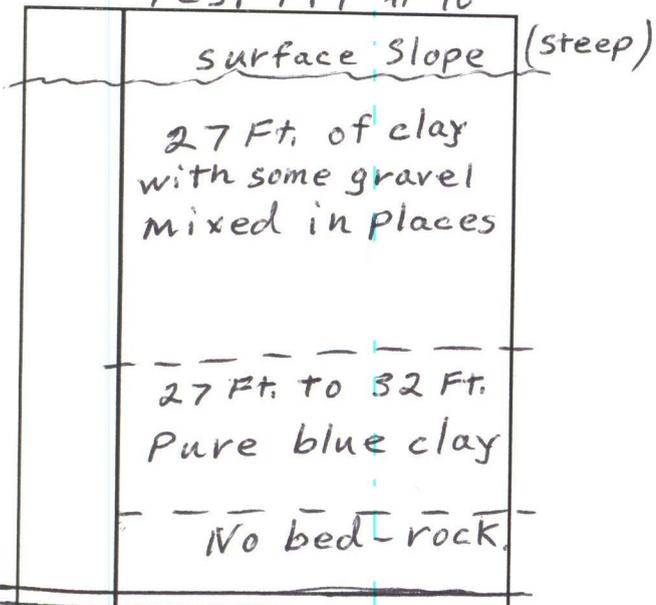
Pit # 9: This pit is above pit #2.

TESTED BY: Joe Vidler

DATE: Sept. 11 / 96

AREA BEING TESTED: Vicks Lease

Test Pit # 10



TEST PIT #: 10

TOTAL YARDS TESTED: 0

DEPTH OF TEST: 32 Ft.

GRAMS RECOVERED: 0

TEST PIT #: 11

TOTAL YARDS TESTED: _____

DEPTH OF TEST: 5 Ft.

GRAMS RECOVERED: _____

TEST PIT #: _____

TOTAL YARDS TESTED: _____

DEPTH OF TEST: _____

GRAMS RECOVERED: _____

TEST PIT #: _____

TOTAL YARDS TESTED: _____

DEPTH OF TEST: _____

GRAMS RECOVERED: _____

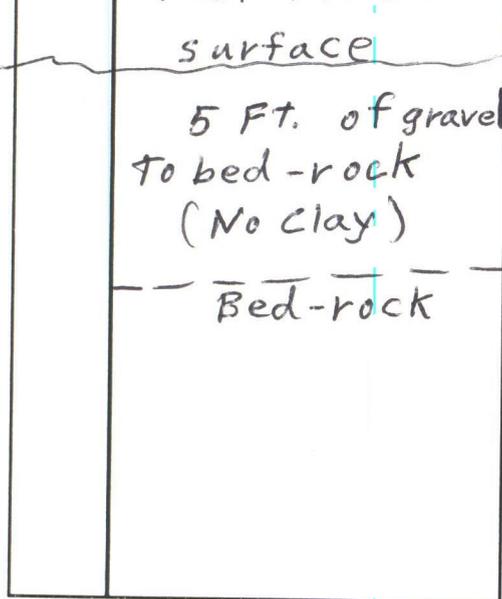
TEST PIT #: _____

TOTAL YARDS TESTED: _____

DEPTH OF TEST: _____

GRAMS RECOVERED: _____

Test Pit # 11



COMMENTS: Test Pit # 10: is dug up against slope of hill.

Test Pit # 11: This pit is down-hill from pit # 10.

TESTED BY: Joe Vidber

DATE: Sept. 11 / 96

AREA BEING TESTED: Vicks Lease

	<u>Surface Slope</u> 12 Ft. of blue Clay against slope of Hill
	----- No bed-rock

TEST PIT #: 12

TOTAL YARDS TESTED: _____

DEPTH OF TEST: 12 Ft.

GRAMS RECOVERED: _____

TEST PIT #: _____

TOTAL YARDS TESTED: _____

DEPTH OF TEST: _____

GRAMS RECOVERED: _____

TEST PIT #: _____

TOTAL YARDS TESTED: _____

DEPTH OF TEST: _____

GRAMS RECOVERED: _____

TEST PIT #: _____

TOTAL YARDS TESTED: _____

DEPTH OF TEST: _____

GRAMS RECOVERED: _____

TEST PIT #: _____

TOTAL YARDS TESTED: _____

DEPTH OF TEST: _____

GRAMS RECOVERED: _____

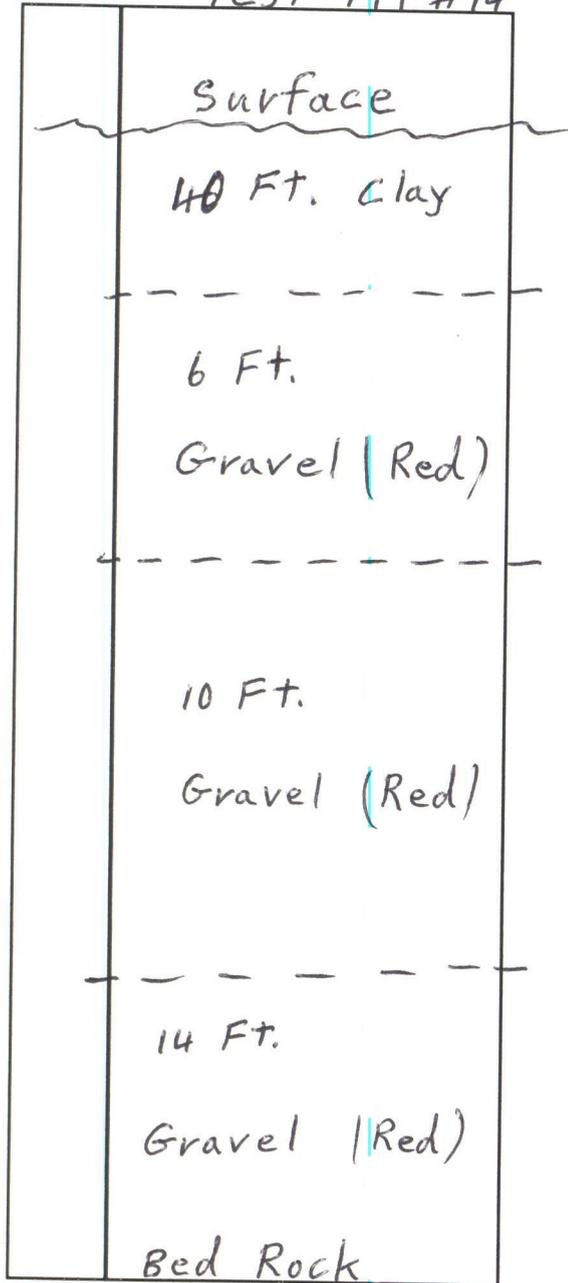
COMMENTS: Test Pit #12: in this pit there is some gravel along side of the clay, (away from the hill slope) There also seems to be a hollow leading out towards Halo-ways Bar.

TESTED BY: Joe Vidber

DATE: Sept. 14/96

AREA BEING TESTED: Vicks Lease

Test Pit #14



TEST PIT #: 13

TOTAL YARDS TESTED: 0
DEPTH OF TEST: 30 Ft. Clay
GRAMS RECOVERED: 0

TEST PIT #: 14 Top

TOTAL YARDS TESTED: 10 *Ran on*
DEPTH OF TEST: 6 Ft. *the 15 of*
GRAMS RECOVERED: 2.4 *Sept. 96*

TEST PIT #: 14 Middle

TOTAL YARDS TESTED: 6
DEPTH OF TEST: 10 Ft.
GRAMS RECOVERED: 0.8 *.13/YD*

TEST PIT #: 14 Bottom

TOTAL YARDS TESTED: 20
DEPTH OF TEST: 14 Ft.
GRAMS RECOVERED: 1.5 *.075/YD*

TEST PIT #: 15

TOTAL YARDS TESTED: 8 *Ran on*
DEPTH OF TEST: 5 Ft. *the 15 of*
GRAMS RECOVERED: 4.3 *Sept. 96*
.54/YD

COMMENTS: Pit #14 is a glacial deposit
there is no river action.

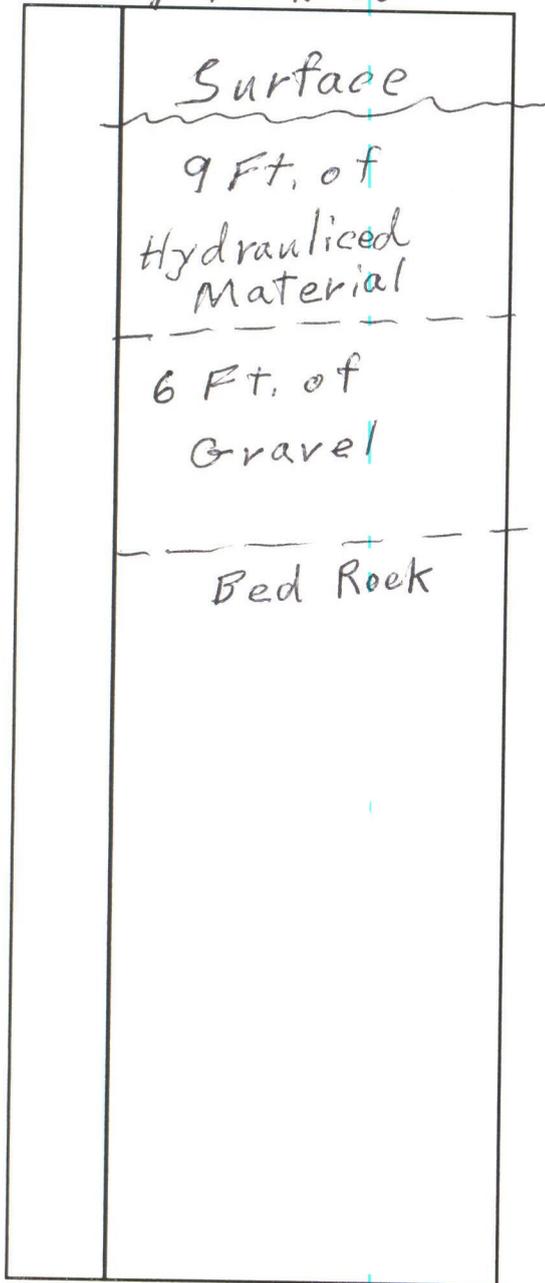
Pit # 15 was taken from under the old
flume, it appears that there was more river
action out towards the present river

TESTED BY: Joe Hilber

DATE: Sept. 16/96

AREA BEING TESTED: Vics Lease

Pit # 16



TEST PIT #: 15-B

TOTAL YARDS TESTED: 10

DEPTH OF TEST: 8 Ft.

GRAMS RECOVERED: 4.2

Ran on the 19th of Sept.

TEST PIT #: 16

TOTAL YARDS TESTED: 10

DEPTH OF TEST: ~~8~~ 5 Ft.

GRAMS RECOVERED: .5

Ran on the 19th of Sept.

TEST PIT #: _____

TOTAL YARDS TESTED: _____

DEPTH OF TEST: _____

GRAMS RECOVERED: _____

TEST PIT #: _____

TOTAL YARDS TESTED: _____

DEPTH OF TEST: _____

GRAMS RECOVERED: _____

TEST PIT #: _____

TOTAL YARDS TESTED: _____

DEPTH OF TEST: _____

GRAMS RECOVERED: _____

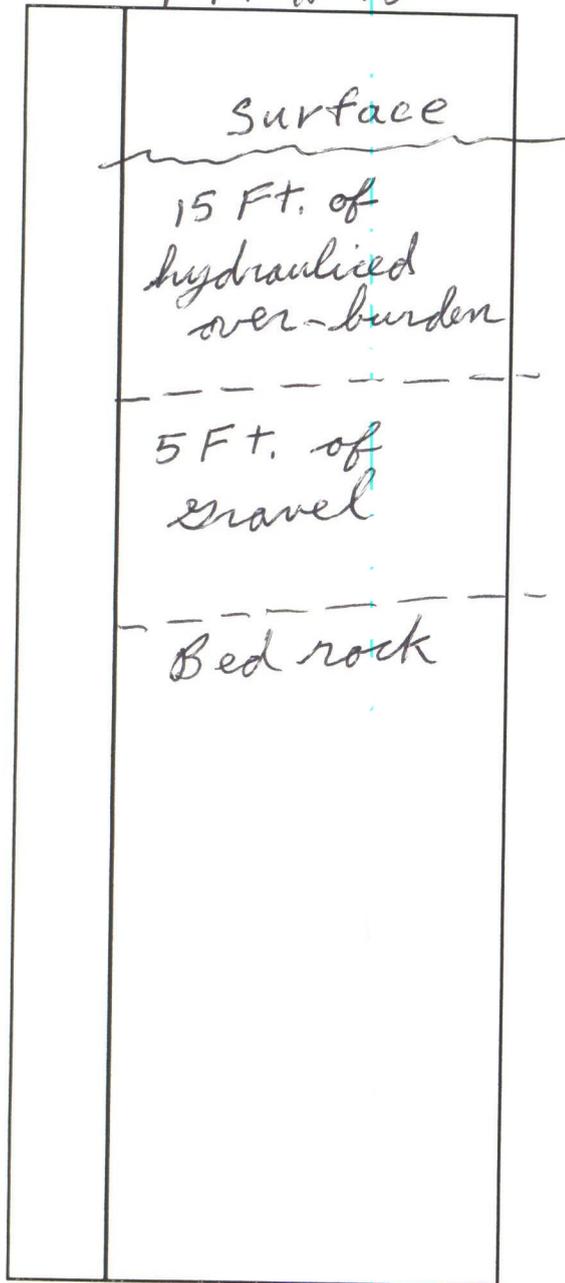
COMMENTS: Pit # 15-B is a retake of Pit # 15 under the old flume line.

TESTED BY: Joe Bidber

DATE: Sept, 13/96

AREA BEING TESTED: Vis Lease

Pit # 18



TEST PIT #: 17

TOTAL YARDS TESTED: 0

DEPTH OF TEST: 28.6 Ft.

GRAMS RECOVERED: 0

TEST PIT #: 18

TOTAL YARDS TESTED: _____

DEPTH OF TEST: 5 Ft.

GRAMS RECOVERED: _____

TEST PIT #: _____

TOTAL YARDS TESTED: _____

DEPTH OF TEST: _____

GRAMS RECOVERED: _____

TEST PIT #: _____

TOTAL YARDS TESTED: _____

DEPTH OF TEST: _____

GRAMS RECOVERED: _____

TEST PIT #: _____

TOTAL YARDS TESTED: _____

DEPTH OF TEST: _____

GRAMS RECOVERED: _____

COMMENTS: Test Pit #17 is dug in 28 Ft. of hydrauliced and Virgin blue clay and 6 inches of gravel to bed rock.

TESTED BY: Joe Widber

Pit # 23
* ← 100 Ft. → *

Pit # 24
← 50 Ft. → *



Vicks Lease
450 Ft.

Pit # 19
* ← 30 Ft. → *

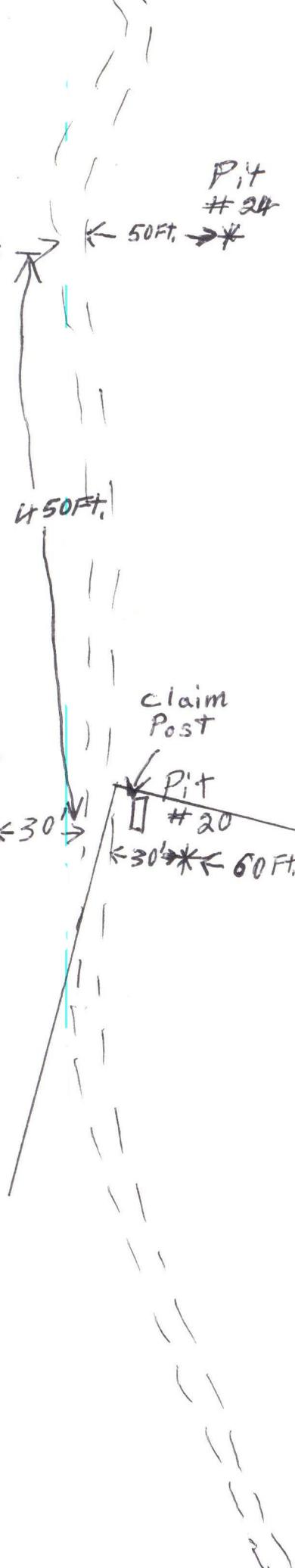
Claim Post

Pit # 20
□

Pit # 21
* ← 60 Ft. → *

Pit # 22
* ← 60 Ft. → *

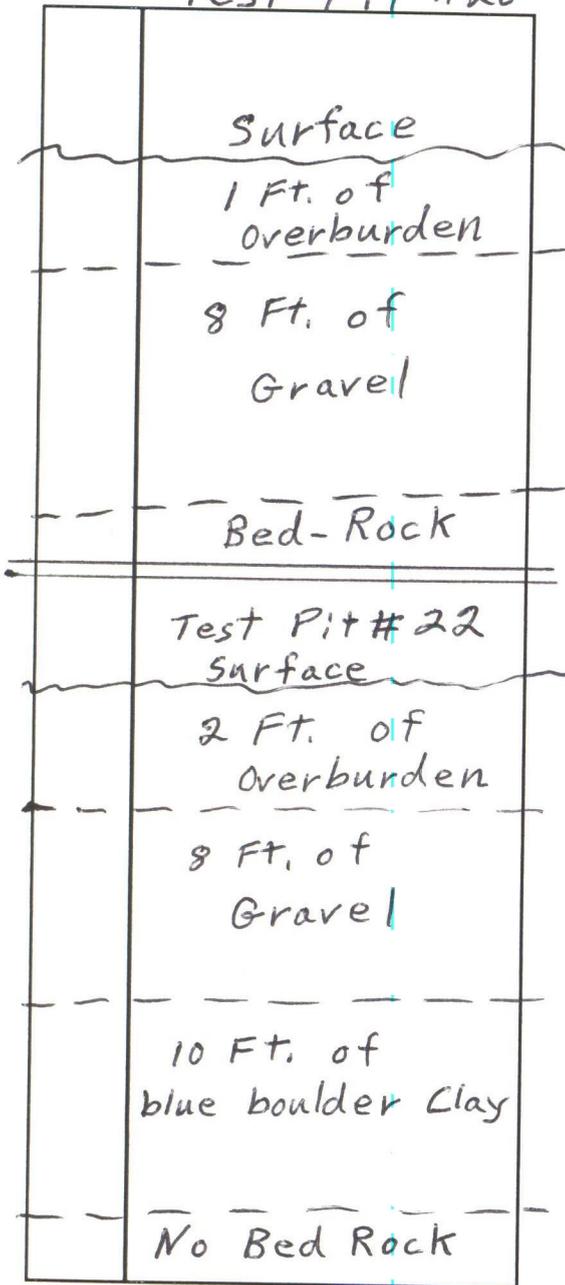
SPML # 1522



DATE: Sept. 25/96

AREA BEING TESTED: Vicks Lease

Test Pit #20



TEST PIT #: 19

TOTAL YARDS TESTED: 0
DEPTH OF TEST: 8 Ft. Overburden to
GRAMS RECOVERED: 0 Bed Rock

TEST PIT #: 20

TOTAL YARDS TESTED: 24
DEPTH OF TEST: 8 Ft. Gravel to
GRAMS RECOVERED: 0 Bed Rock

TEST PIT #: 21

TOTAL YARDS TESTED: 0
DEPTH OF TEST: 12 Ft. Overburden to
GRAMS RECOVERED: 0 Bed Rock

TEST PIT #: 22

TOTAL YARDS TESTED: 0
DEPTH OF TEST: 20 Ft. (No Bed Rock)
GRAMS RECOVERED: 0

TEST PIT #: 23

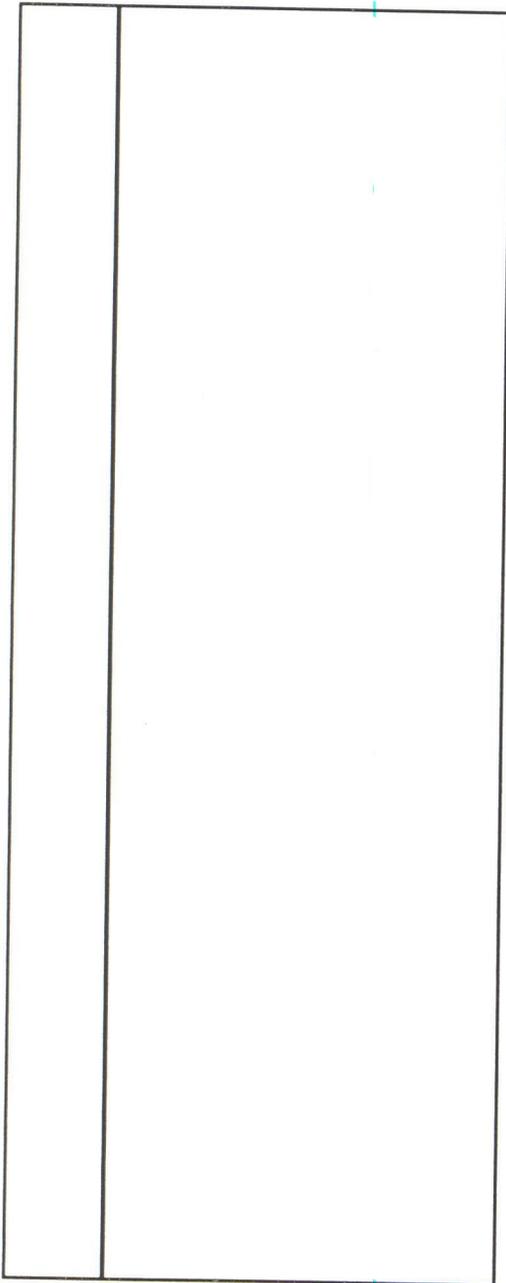
TOTAL YARDS TESTED: 0
DEPTH OF TEST: 8 Ft. (No Bed Rock)
GRAMS RECOVERED: 0

COMMENTS: Test Pit # 22 was extremely wet,
there maybe a channel under the clay?
Test Pit # 23 is four feet of overburden and four
feet of blue boulder clay, possible channel under the clay.
(Area is quite wet)

TESTED BY: Joe Vidler

DATE: Sept. 26 & 27 / 96

AREA BEING TESTED: Vicks Lease



TEST PIT #: 24

TOTAL YARDS TESTED: 0
DEPTH OF TEST: 10 Ft. (No Bed Rock)
GRAMS RECOVERED: 0

TEST PIT #: 25 - A

TOTAL YARDS TESTED: 0
DEPTH OF TEST: 30 Ft. (No Bed Rock)
GRAMS RECOVERED: 0

TEST PIT #: 25 - B

TOTAL YARDS TESTED: 0
DEPTH OF TEST: 30 Ft. (No Bed Rock)
GRAMS RECOVERED: 0

TEST PIT #: _____

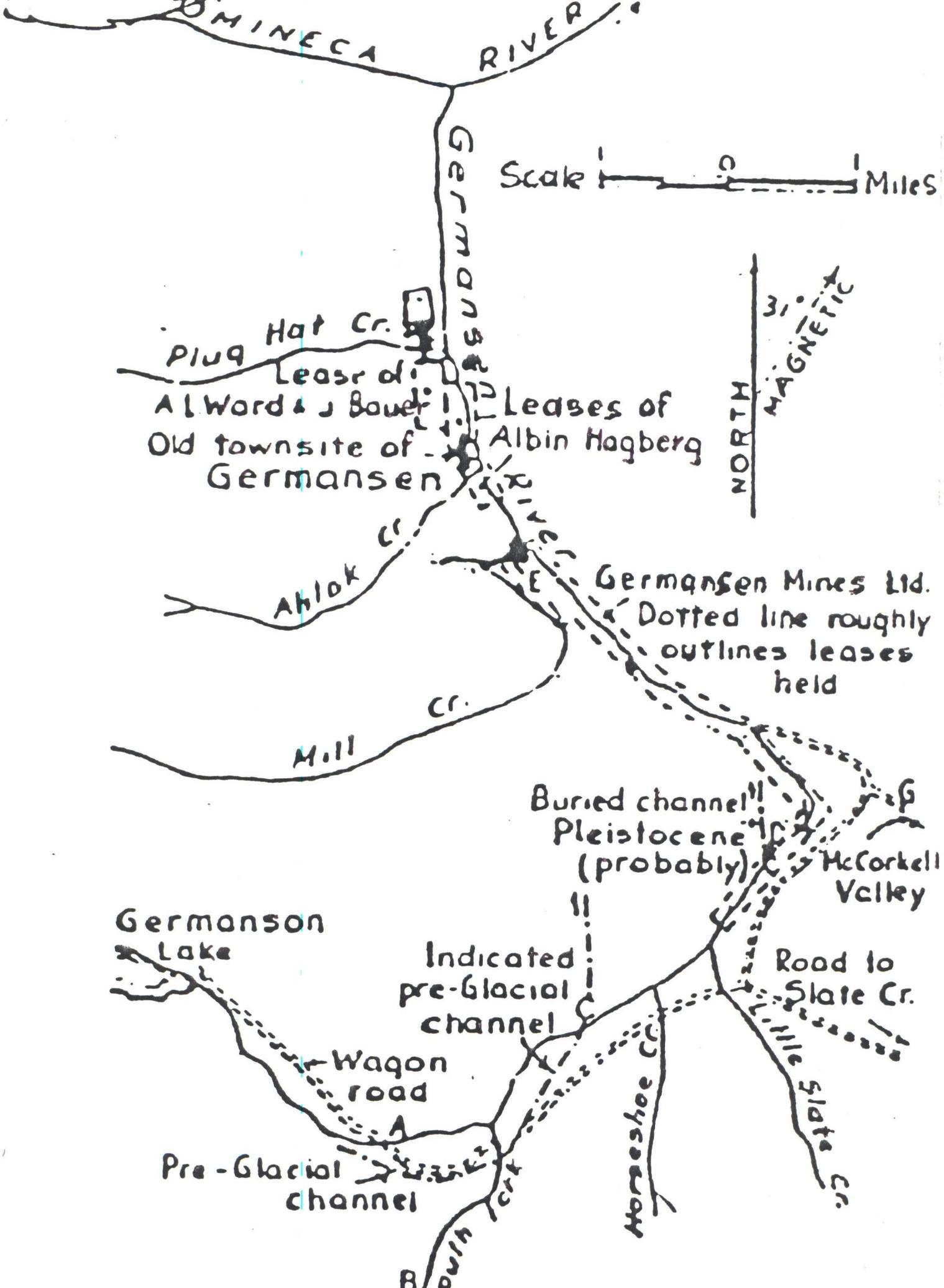
TOTAL YARDS TESTED: _____
DEPTH OF TEST: _____
GRAMS RECOVERED: _____

TEST PIT #: _____

TOTAL YARDS TESTED: _____
DEPTH OF TEST: _____
GRAMS RECOVERED: _____

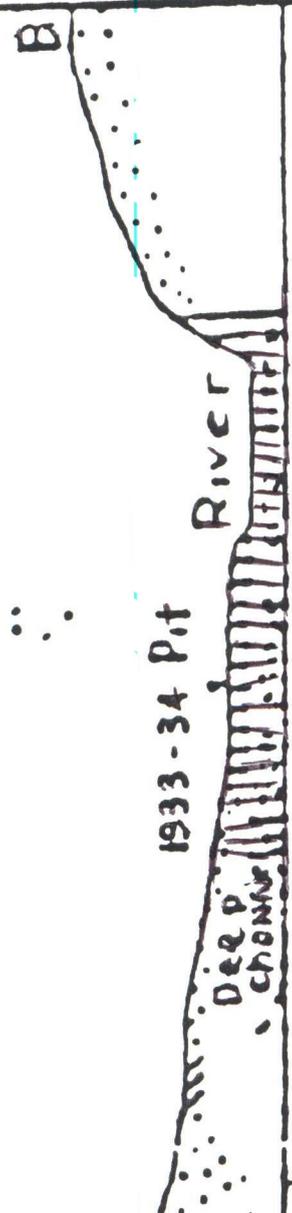
COMMENTS: Test Pit # 24 is four feet of top-soil and six feet of blue boulder clay, possible channel under the clay (Wet)
Test Pit # 25-A is hydraulized clay, with a little gravel in it.
Test Pit # 25-B is virgin blue boulder clay and it is 20 Ft. away from Pit 25-A. (Area is quite wet) and did not reach channel.

TESTED BY: Joe Bidber



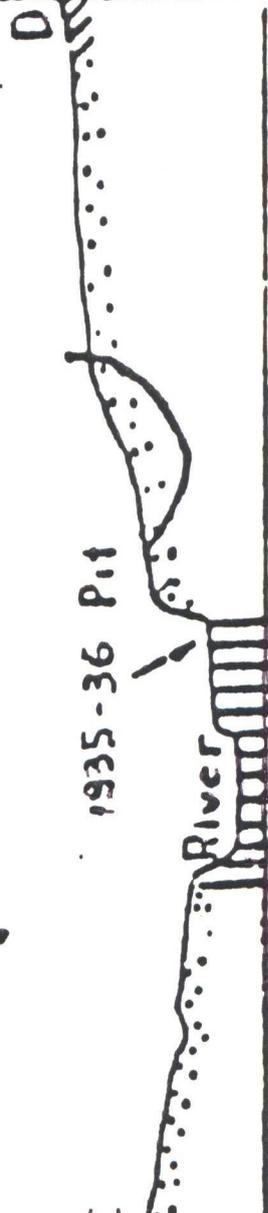
Scale - all sections, horizontal. Vert. 300 150 0 300 Feet

Section along A-B



1933-34 Pit

Section along C-D



Section along E-F



Buried
channel
indicated

Scale 600 0 600

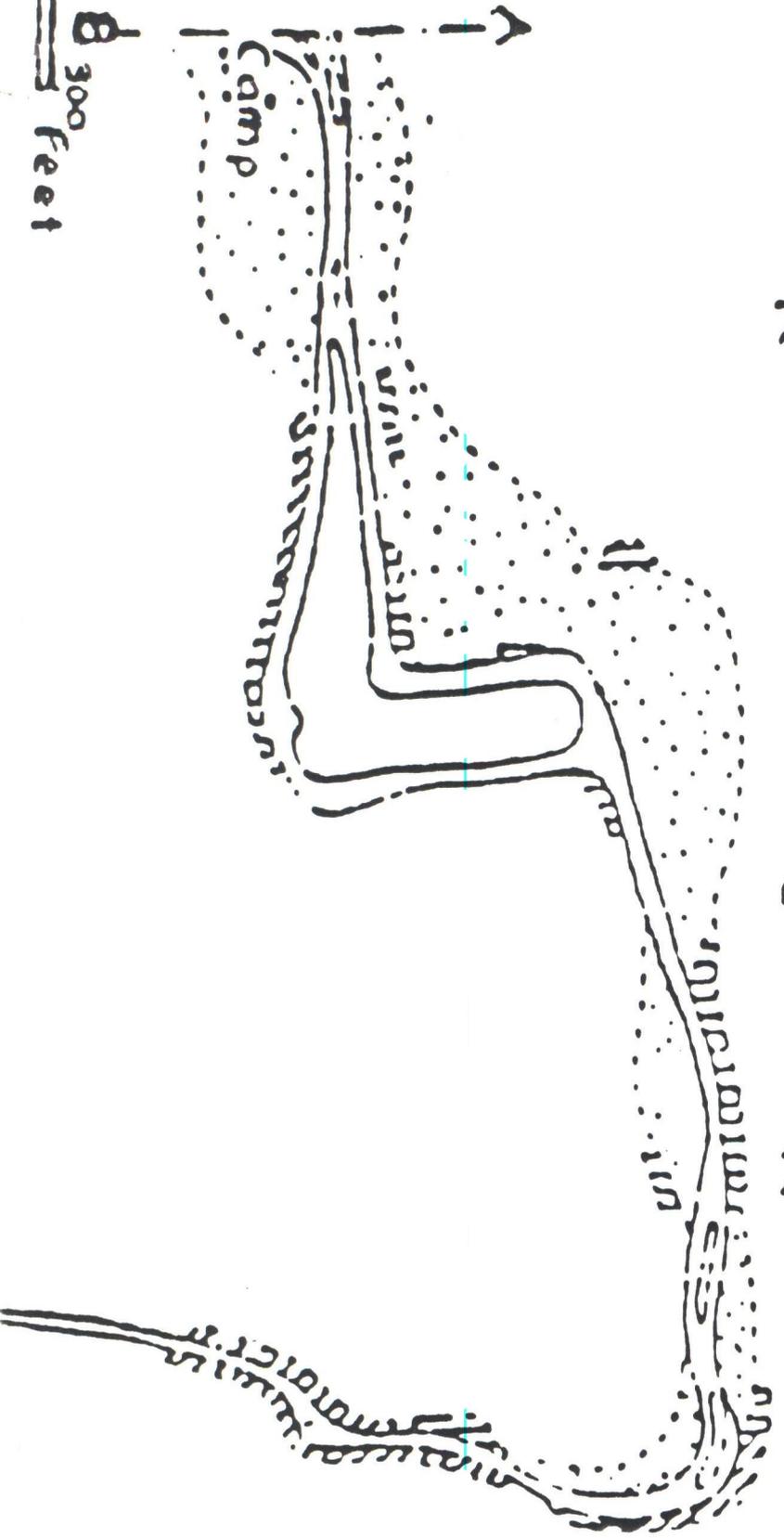
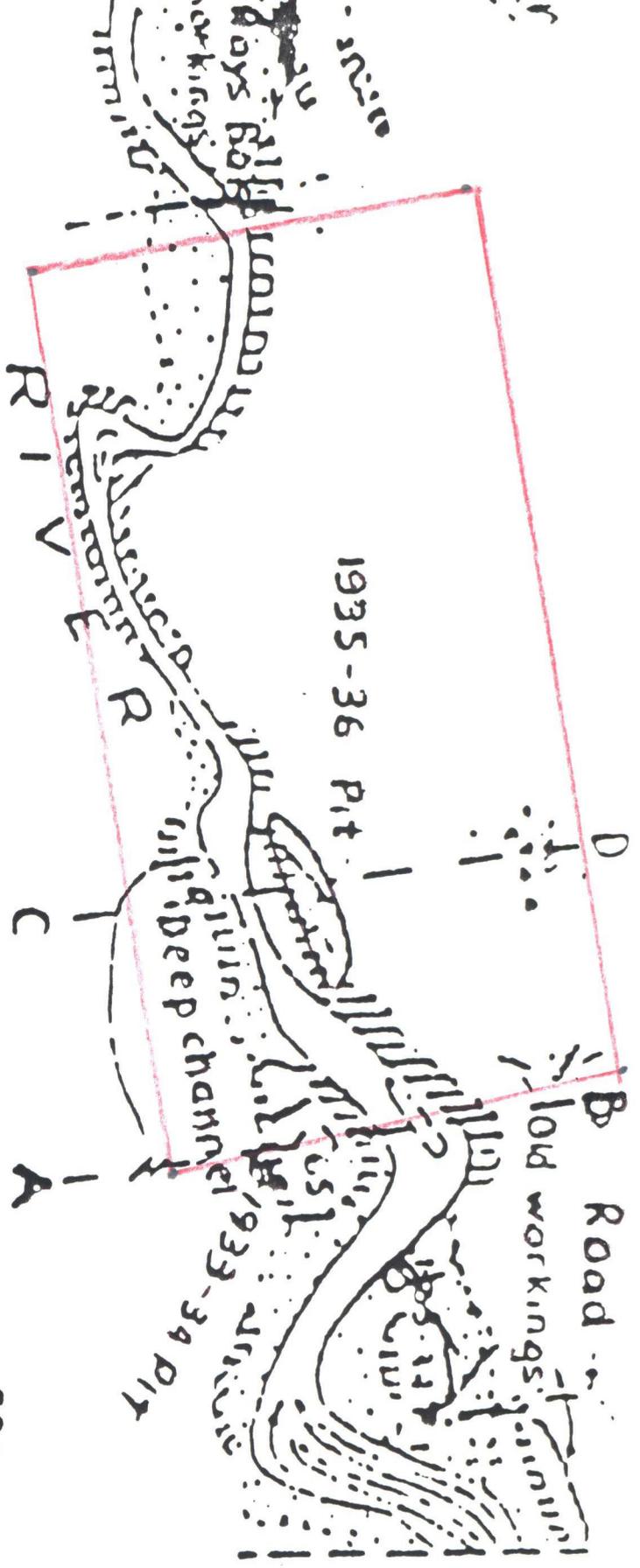
LEGEND

Sedimentary rocks [Symbol: horizontal lines]

Volcanic rocks [Symbol: diagonal lines]

River Benches 30ft or less above river [Symbol: dotted pattern]

NOTE: Plan is broken at A-F to facilitate reproduction



McCorkell Brothers

This was a hydraulic operation on the benches of the Germansen River, which for a number of years was very successful.

It was owned by Bob and Bert McCorkell, who originally had been packers into the area. Their first operation was in Manson Creek, when they opened up a small channel which was quite rich.

From there they moved to Germansen, where again they found success. The largest nugget recorded up to that time in the Omineca goldfields was found in one of their pits. This nugget weighed twenty-four ounces. Mr. Bert McCorkell, who was in charge of their operations, is said to have used this and other large nuggets as paper weights on his desk.

Their operations ceased soon after the outbreak of World War II, and were never resumed.

The drag line scraper which had originally been brought most of the way by Otterson, was converted to a sauerman type of bucket operation with a one cubic yard capacity. It operated very successfully in narrow gut close to the present course of Manson Creek.

The McCorkell Bros., Bob and Bert, had been active in the Manson-Germansen area for many years, and in 1934 their holdings became registered as Germansen Mines with the Head Office at 716 Hall Building, Vancouver, at the time they owned 16 leases.

The years 1933-34 saw much activity and many changes in the placer fields of the Omineca. J. J. Warren was still working on Tom Creek but later he, with W. and E. T. Gibbon, purchased the McCormick lease, then they staked more ground. They sank a 73-foot deep shaft to bedrock in the old channel. On the bottom they drifted 40 feet from which they recovered 25 ounces of gold.

Lee Tong and Associates with their new partner Gow Sing of Barkerville had done much better. By the 12th of August 1933 their adit had progressed 935 feet. Their timber sets were spaced on 3½-foot centers, and the Resident Engineer's report stated that they averaged 6 ounces of gold per set. However, the full width of the pay channel was not known, because no cross-cutting had been attempted in the old Vital Creek Channel.

Mr. Douglas Lay also believed the ancient channel on Vital Creek was 80 feet below the present channel. At some point in the past ages the creek had been moved to its present site while the original channel had been filled with glacial till. Lay was of the opinion the ancient creek had a 4 percent gradient, while the present creek had more than a 6 percent grade.

Gold was first discovered on Kelly Creek by a native named David Alexander who produced some very coarse nuggets in his clean-up. Other claims were staked by J. Donald and partner, J. Anderson, W. B. Cowan P. D. Cameron and a Chinese group, Long Charlie and Associates. Claims were held on Quartz Creek by E. Martin, Martha Tom, T. Hallam, and a lease by Alex C. Clark.

In the Manson Creek area properties were held by Sam Rossetti, James Dunsmore on Lost Creek, Luke Fowler on BlackJack in addition to the many leases held by the larger mining companies.

Douglas Lay's report also mentioned that the gold found on Souchie Creek near Fort St. James was of post-glacial origin and was lying on a false bedrock. Some very large flakes had been recovered.

ment with the prime object of recovering gold from the gravels of the placer fields. In addition to the men employed by the mining companies, hundreds of "snipers" found their way into the area, some came from the prairie provinces, and others from Ontario and Quebec.

The whole area had never seen such an influx since the 1870-71 gold rush. Many of the companies allowed some of the newcomers to prospect and snipe on their leases when no operation was in progress at the time.

At Manson Creek, the site of the old Manson Town again saw a number of buildings being created with the Hudson's Bay store in the centre of the activity. (It had been built in the winter of 1935-36.) Another store was being planned near the mouth of Slate Creek.

Some of the old buildings on the Kildare Gulch were again being used, as were the old cabins on Lost Creek. On Tom Creek, 22 men were employed by Tom Creek Placers Ltd. This was a steam shovel operation which ran two 12-hour shifts.

The hydraulic operation of Ventures on Vital Creek was running three shifts employing 26 men who had constructed a flume two miles long, to bring additional water from Humphrey Creek.

Ventures operation on Vital Creek was under the supervision of Mr. Fred Martin. While Germansen Ventures had embarked upon a mammoth project to tap Germansen Lake, and bring in additional water for the planned expansion of the hydraulic pits on Germansen Creek. Mr. Horace McNaughton Fraser was the Engineer-in-charge of this project, with Mr. Chris Beaton as Superintendent. The overall plan called for two dams to be built at the outlet of the lake, and a 10-mile ditchline with a 2-mile flume to carry water from the lake to the pits at Germansen at a rate of 150 cubic feet per second. Much of the flume would be built on the almost sheer walls of Germansen Creek.

In order to supply the lumber for the flume and for construction of housing for the 108 men at the camp, a diesel powered sawmill and planer was set up at Germansen Landing. It was expected the whole project would be completed for the next year's mining season. In the meantime the two small hydraulic operations at camp number one and camp number two would continue.

Upstream from the Ventures hydraulics the Germansen Mines Ltd., under the management of A. A. McCorkell, were also plan-

ning a much larger operation for the forthcoming season. This entailed building a ditch and flume to bring in more water so that larger monitors could be used to wash the auriferous gravels of the bench leases the company owned. A Marion steam shovel was used for the ditching part of the expansion. While the construction was underway, ten of the men carried on with the hydraulics operations in the pit.

On Slate Creek, the CM & S Company, managed by W. Ogilvie, had 36 men running three shifts operating the Sauerman type slack-line bucket. A bulldozer was used to push more gravel to the bucket to increase production.

Northern Gold Placers on Manson Creek was mining the creek gravels downstream from the mouth of Elmore Gulch. It was a combined steam shovel and donkey engine operation. The creek waters had been diverted from the area being mined by a huge sand-bag dam, which allowed a bedrock drain to be built to take care of water seepage. The project kept the mine manager, Mr. R. C. (Bob) Adams and some 20 men employed for several months.

The Rossetti-Hayward Company had started construction on two ditchlines to bring more water to their leases. They also built a log construction dam across a natural ravine for extra water storage. A cookhouse, blacksmith shop and three bunkhouses were built to accommodate the future crew for the planned hydraulics the next season.

Lost Creek Placer Gold Ltd., managed by Mr. Bert MacDonald, had commenced mining the bench flats near Lost Creek using the Marion steam shovel brought in the previous year.

There was a water shortage in the late summer of 1937, which resulted in test shafts being sunk on various parts of the company property. At this time, the company employed 22 men.

Dunsmore Gold Mines Ltd. had completed the main shaft to bedrock at a depth of more than 90 feet. A new camp had been constructed for the 21 employees, many of them being former coal miners from Alberta.

The new shaft had hit squarely on the drift which Billy Steel and J. Mullen had driven during the years 1915-1916. As very few cave-ins had occurred in the old drift during the years, the management cleared out the fallen debris and used it as a drain, and an emergency escape route.

It was found Billy Steele and partner had drifted approximately, 550 feet with the last 200 feet being in pay-dirt.

A large boiler room was built of logs to house the upright double drum engine, and the two air compressors, and a 450-gallon-per-minute pump was used for washing the pay-gravels through the surface sluice boxes.

This was a closed-circuit system since the wash constantly returned to the small surface lake which had supplied the water in the first place. Altogether it was a first-class operation in deep-lead placer mining, and while it remained under the supervision of Mr. Jim Dunsmore it was a successful one.

In addition to the men employed at the mines, scores of individual miners were scattered throughout the entire area on various projects of their own.

A total of 3,408 ounces of gold was officially recorded as being produced, but a reasonable guess would place the amount at least one third more than the official count given.

1938

The year began without the Northern Gold Placer Company in the area. Their operation on Manson Creek had been completely wiped out the previous year, when the sand-bag dam had collapsed during a four-day period of heavy rain, which had raised the creek waters to flood level.

In contrast, 1938 was extremely dry, and several smaller outfits had to cease operations early due to a shortage of water. The Rossetti-Hayward hydraulics had to close in July, while Lost Creek Placers did not have enough water to wash all the gravel the steam shovel could dig, so Bert MacDonald had his 20-man crew working on a proposed 6-mile ditch-line to bring water from Manson Creek near the foot of Baldy Mountain. Several flumes had to be built to cross the natural ravines on the surveyed route.

Dunsmore Gold Mines were in full production—three shifts daily, seven days a week.

The CM & S Company, was also working around the clock, although they were experiencing some difficulty keeping their steam plant supplied with dry firewood. At Germansen, the McCorkell hydraulics were in full operation, and part of the planned expansion was underway.

Germansen Ventures had completed their 12-mile ditch and flume, and had two pits fully operational with 53 employees.

On Tom Creek, the J. J. Warren Company had a steam shovel working and 22 men on the payroll.

The Harrison Creek hydraulics had closed, but paydirt was still being washed from the previous winter's underground work.

The Vital Creek underground was finished, but numerous snipers were there, and on other creeks in that area.

The recorded gold production for 1938 was given as 3,883 ounces.

1939

Dunsmore Gold Mines on Lost Creek suspended their operations during the summer of 1939. Mr. Bob Dunsmore had passed away and Jim Dunsmore, the original manager, had left the company to be replaced by a Mr. Keith from Edmonton.

The company was now registered, with the Head Office in Toronto, Ontario with the B.C. office at #601 Bank of Toronto Building in Victoria.

Lost Creek Placers had received new financing from California. This allowed the completion of the 6-mile ditch and flume which brought 40 cubic feet of water per second to the pit, which was being readied for a hydraulic operation. There were 22 men employed on the site.

Germansen Ventures worked three pits, one of which was a hydraulic lift method of mining. They had 58 men on the payroll.

Mr. W. H. Essie was Chief Engineer with Chris Beaton as Superintendent. It was estimated that around 1,000,000 cubic yards of gravel was processed during the 1939 season. The McCorkell holdings were now known as Germansen Mines Ltd., and had their Head Office at 789 West Pender Street, Vancouver, B.C.

The share issue was 750,000 with a 50-cents-per-share value. The principal officers were R. C. McCorkell, President, M. A. Manson, Secretary, and A. A. (Bert) McCorkell as Manager of operations. They employed a total of 45 men, many of whom were constructing a new ditchline from the South Fork of Germansen Creek.

Tom Creek had 14 men working two shifts at the Warren Steam shovel operation.

Many scores of individuals were still working on all of the gold bearing creeks everywhere, although a few had left the placer fields at the outbreak of World War II in September 1939.

The recorded production of gold was 4,087 ounces, but the real total will never be known.

1940

Although not immediately noticeable, the outbreak of war was to have a serious impact on the mines in the Omineca placer fields. Many of the miners joined the armed forces, while others found more lucrative work in the base metal mines.

Some of the mines continued to operate in 1940 but in most cases, with reduced manpower.

Lost Creek Placer started to hydraulic using the water from their newly completed 6-mile ditch and flume line. One monitor with a 6-inch nozzle was used in the pit for washing, while a 5-inch was used at the end of the sluice for stacking the tailings. 2,900 feet of piping were used from the penstock to the pit monitors.

The pipe gradually reduced in size from 4 feet diameter where it left the penstock to 10 inches where it entered the gooseneck of the monitors. It had a 225-foot head of water.

An estimated 125,000 cubic yards of gravel was processed before winter closed down the pit, Germansen Mines continued working with 30 employees. Much larger monitors were being used with the increased water supply from their new ditchline.

Ventures had 53 employees working on a round the clock basis. Three pits were in operation, and a keystone drilling program was being implemented to bring other pits into operation at a later date.

Tom Creek Placers started the season with 15 employees but by August, all work was suspended. There was much talk and various rumors about problems at the CM & S Mine on Slate Creek, but despite this many individual miners were still working on various creeks.

Billy Steele was still the Sub-Mining Recorder at Manson Creek, while Mr. Norman Henry was acting in that capacity in Fort St. James.

Official gold production was recorded at 14,010 ounces of which 8,304 ounces were mined at Germansen Creek.

1941

Very little in the way of official reports was published during 1941.

Lost Creek Placers were running one shift only, with a 10-man crew.

Mr. W. Ogilvie had been replaced by Mr. W. F. Marleau, at the CM & S mine on Slate Creek. No mining was in progress, but some Keystone drilling was being done around the pit site.

Much activity still continued in the Germansen area.

Ventures had 50 employees, and were working three shifts in each of the two pits still operating. Number One pit had three monitors working with 9-, 8- and 6-inch nozzles, respectively. Number Seven pit had four monitors, three of which had 6-inch nozzles, and a 5-inch on the end of the sluice boxes was stacking the tailings which had passed through the sluice.

Germansen Mines were running three shifts with 24 men, and two large monitors in the pit.

A number of men were ground sluicing and washing on 20 Mile Creek.

Official record of gold production was put at 7,101 ounces for the 1941 season, but with so many miners still working on the smaller creeks, the real production must have been considerably more.

It should be noted that gold produced from the following 16 creeks and rivers has not been included in the 1940-41 totals.

Babine River, Bob Creek, Chimdomash Creek, Dream Creek, Humphrey Creek, Kildare Creek, Kleanza Creek, Kwanika Creek, Ogden Creek, Omineca River, Osilinka River, Philip Creek, Porcupine Creek, Sibola Creek, Twin Creek and Wheel Creek.

There was some active placer mining in progress on many of the aforementioned creeks during the years 1940 and 1941.

1942

Germansen Ventures closed down all operations on the 8th of July 1942. Both pits Nos. 1 and 7 were producing very well, but various regulations had been placed upon gold mines due to conditions brought about by Canada and the U.S. being involved in the World War II conflict.

One of these regulations was that if any employee left his job for any reason whatever, no one could be hired to replace him. Base metals were needed, and not gold, for the war being fought.

Germansen Mines closed, as did Lost Creek Placers. Mr. Marleau was still testing around the mine on Slate Creek, but no major operation was in progress anywhere. The official report concludes with a very abrupt statement, "Nothing elsewhere."

This was hardly accurate, because many individuals were still working, and continued to do so for the balance of the mining season. World War II had brought to an end the era of the giant hydraulics, but at a later date, a few smaller operations commenced.



Martin Mines, under the management of Mrs. Miller-Tait opened up a hydraulic mine on Twin Creek, and a number of the former employees of Germansen Ventures were employed to construct and operate it. However, it closed after a very short run.

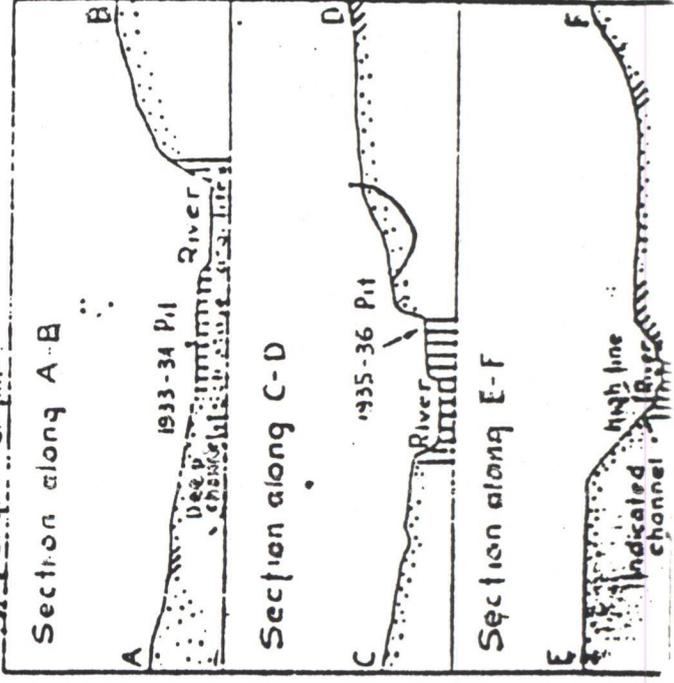
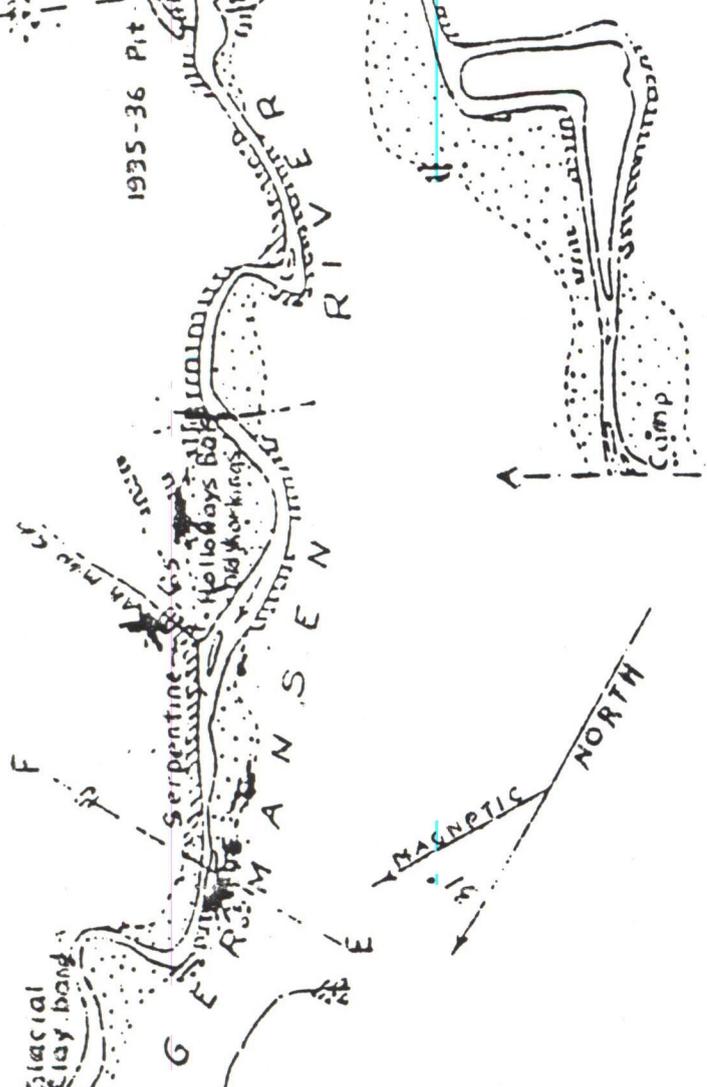
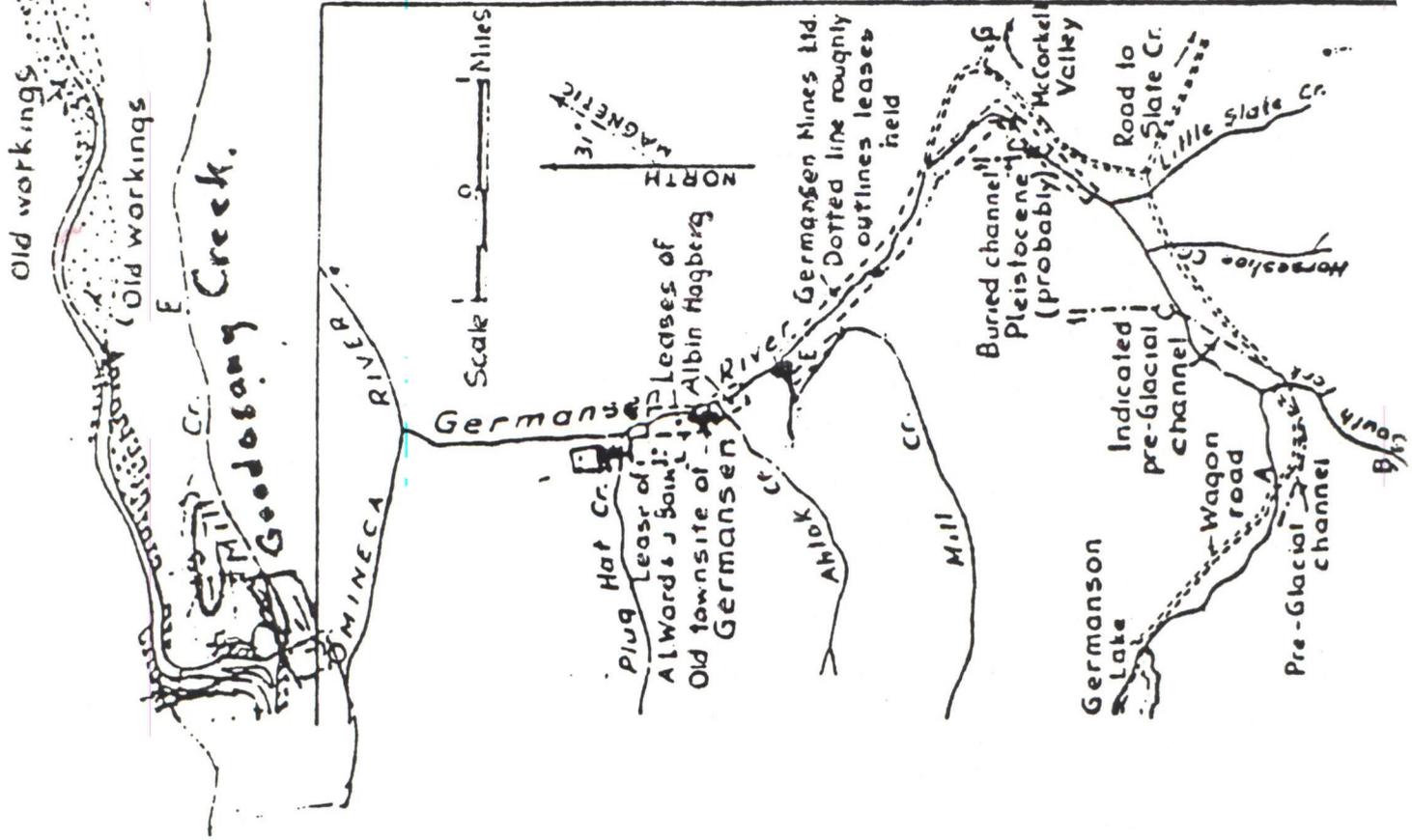
After lying dormant for some time the Germansen Ventures holdings were purchased by Mr. Joe Huffman of Fort St. James who re-opened the number 7 pit. Later it was taken over by Mr. George Loper who continued with the same pit operation.

In Manson Creek the holdings of Lost Creek Placers was opened again in the post war years of 1947-48 by two California men. Mr. Frank Ford and Mr. Harry Bachelor brought in much equipment, some of which was never used. A large pit was opened up by the monitor, but the amount of gold recovered did not cover the expenses involved.

Despite this, many individual miners were busy with various types of sluices along Manson and Germansen Creeks, where every piece of ground not held by the companies, was staked and being worked. During the 1950s the Legislature at Victoria allowed mining companies to stake Special Placer Mining Leases covering several square miles in area.

This was seen as an incentive for large companies with plenty of capital to again rejuvenate the dormant placer fields. Actually it had the opposite effect, because it tied up large areas which the individual prospector-miner could not touch.

In addition, any standard sized lease of a half-mile-long owned by an individual, immediately, upon forfeiture, became part of the Special Lease at no cost to the owner of that lease. The standard



Scale 0 600
LEGEND
 Sedimentary rocks [stippled pattern]
 Volcanic rocks [diagonal lines pattern]
 River Benches 30ft or less above river [horizontal lines pattern]
 NOTE: Plan is broken to facilitate representation