

PR 12 NOV 69

September 15, 1969

Mr. Clay Jenkins
Lost Trail Camp
Sula MT 59871

Dear Mr. Jenkins:

At your request, I visited the Ajax mine in Beaverhead County, in conjunction with the mine visitation program of the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology. After talking with you and your son, I must admit that I have reservations about your idea of constructing a new road to the mine. Miners have and should be guided by the philosophy that the mine pays for itself. This should include mine operation proper and an access road, if the designed function of the road is to serve the mine.

Instead of spending time and money on the road at this point, I suggest that you determine the amount and grade of ore in the mine. The grade can be ascertained by thoroughly sampling the vein in the tunnels and along the outcrop. By thorough, I mean cutting channels across the full width of the vein. The amount of ore should be determined by a professional geologist or mining engineer. If the value of the ore in the mine is sufficient, then go ahead with the road.

If plattnerite is present in sufficient quantity, the sale of specimens would undoubtedly provide some revenue for building the road.

If I can be of any further help, please let me know. Also, I would be interested in knowing how your work progresses.

Sincerely,

H. G. McClernan
Economic Geologist