

December 8, 1954

Mr. Fred L. Mills, Secretary
Quicksilver Syndicate
Blackbutte, Oregon

Dear Mr. Mills:

In response to your letter of December 6, I am enclosing an index map showing the available topographic mapping in the State of Oregon. Copies of these maps are available from the U. S. Geological Survey, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado, at a cost of 20 cents each.

Also enclosed is an index map showing the published geologic mapping. References to the mapped areas appear on the reverse side of the sheet.

If we can be of any further service to you please feel free to write again.

Sincerely yours,

Ralph S. Mason
Mining Engineer

RSM:lk
Encl.

QUICKSILVER SYNDICATE

A CORPORATION
BLACKBUTTE MINES

BLACKBUTTE, OREGON
December 6th, 1954

STATE OF OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY & MINERAL INDUSTRIES
STATE OFFICE BUILDING
PORTLAND, OREGON

F. W. Libbey, Director.

Dear Sir.

We have been trying to get some of the maps of the Black Butte district, principally the U.S. topographical maps and were informed in Cottage Grove that you might be able to help us. It seems that these maps should be available but we do not seem to locate the proper place.

If you can get them for us we will be glad to send check and would like to have four copies.

Yours truly,

Fred L. Mills
Secretary

INDEX MAPS

RECEIVED
DEC 7 - 1954

STATE DEPT. OF GEOLOGY
& MINERAL INDS.

February 11, 1954

Mr. Fred L. Mills
Quicksilver Syndicate
Blackbutte, Oregon

Dear Mr. Mills:

Unfortunately our Bulletin No. 4, Quicksilver in Oregon, by C. N. Schuette, is no longer in print. Our supply of this publication was exhausted some years ago and no date for its republication has been set. We are therefore herewith returning your check in the amount of \$1.15 which you sent to cover its purchase price.

If you wish, we can prepare either photostatic or typed copies of any of the reports in the Schuette publication at a cost of 25 cents per page. There is another published report on the Blackbutte mine in U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 850, Quicksilver deposits of southwestern Oregon, by Wells and Waters, which may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington 25, D. C., at a cost of 30 cents.

Sincerely yours,

Ralph S. Mason
Mining Engineer

RSM:lk
Encl. - Check

QUICKSILVER SYNDICATE

A CORPORATION
BLACKBUTTE MINES

BLACKBUTTE, OREGON
February 8th. 1954

State of Oregon
Department of Geology and Mineral Resources
704 Lewis Building, Portland, Oregon

Gentlemen.

We have Bulletin Number 4, Quicksilver in Oregon, by C. N. Schutte, and note on the fly leaf that copies may be obtained by writing you, at a cost of \$1.15.

We are enclosing check for this amount and would be pleased to receive a copy.

Do you have any other publications which have data about the Black Butte Mine?

Thanking you, we are,

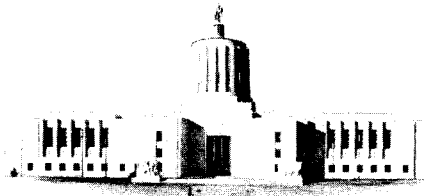
Yours truly,

QUICKSILVER SYNDICATE

By Fred L. Mills, Secretary

Fred L. Mills

GOVERNING BOARD
MASON L. BINGHAM, CHAIRMAN, PORTLAND
NIEL R. ALLEN, GRANTS PASS
AUSTIN DUNN, BAKER



FIELD OFFICES:
2033 FIRST STREET
BAKER
239 SOUTHEAST "H" STREET
GRANTS PASS

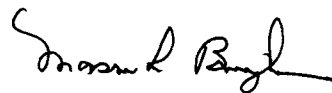
STATE OF OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES
1069 STATE OFFICE BUILDING
PORTLAND 1
February 9, 1954

Mr. F. W. Libbey, Director
State Department of Geology
and Mineral Industries
1069 State Office Building
Portland 1, Oregon

Dear Fay:

Enclosed herewith is a letter from the
Quicksilver Syndicate at Blackbutte, Oregon,
together with their check in the amount of
\$1.15. I will not acknowledge this letter
but will leave it up to you.

Very truly yours,


Mason L. Bingham

MLB:lp
enc

RECEIVED
FEB 10 1954
STATE DEPT. OF GEOLOGY
& MINERAL INDS.

QUICKSILVER SYNDICATE

A CORPORATION
BLACKBUTTE MINES

BLACKBUTTE, OREGON

July 16th. 1942

Earl K. Nixon
Emergency Co-Ordinator of Mines
702 Woodlark Building,
PORTLAND, Oregon

Dear Mr. Nixon.

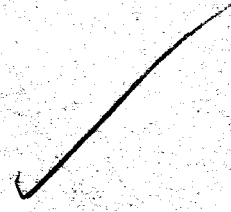
~~Your telegram was phoned to me this morning~~
and I immediately wrote to Western Steel Casting Company. I had telephoned them the day before also and believe they will now go ahead with our repairs. Thank you for your effort in our behalf.

Sincerely,

QUICKSILVER SYNDICATE

By *Fred L. Miller* lgr.

RECEIVED
JUL 18 1942
STATE DEPT OF GEOLOGY
& MINERAL INDS.



to the account of

\$

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
DOMESTIC	CABLE
TELEGRAM	ORDINARY
DAY LETTER	URGENT RATE
SERIAL	DEFERRED
OVERNIGHT TELEGRAM	NIGHT LETTER
SPECIAL SERVICE	SHIP RADIOGRAM

Patrons should check class of service desired; otherwise the message will be transmitted as a telegram or ordinary cablegram.

WESTERN UNION

1206

CHECK

ACCOUNTING INFORMATION

TIME FILED

A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Send the following telegram, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

JULY 15, 1942

WANT A REPLY?

"Answer by WESTERN UNION"
or similar phrases may be
included without charge.

QUICKSILVER SYNDICATE
BLACKBUTTE MINES
COTTAGE GROVE, OREGON

REURLET JULY NINE MINING BRANCH WAR PRODUCTION BOARD WIRES THAT YOUR FEED WORMS SHOULD
under Order P-56
PROVIDE AUTOMATICALLY A-1-c RATING, WHICH COULD BE ENDORSED ON YOUR ORDER TO THE
WESTERN STEEL CASTING COMPANY PROVIDED A QUOTA HAS BEEN GRANTED YOU FOR THE THIRD
QUARTER.

EARL K. NIXON
OREGON EMERGENCY COORDINATOR OF MINES

Send Night Letter
Charge to: State Dept. of Geology
702 Woodlark Building

OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

CHECK

47

SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter

NT = Overnight Telegram

LC = Deferred Cable

NLT = Cable Night Letter

Ship Radiogram

1942 JUL 15 120PM (44)

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

CA589 GUVT TWS PD 3=TDC WASHINGTON DC 15 62 6P

EARL K NIXON, EMERGENCY COORDINATOR OF MINES=
STATE DEPT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES

PORTLAND ORG=

REURTEL JULY 13. THIS IS TO ADVISE THAT FEED WORMS FOLLOW CLEARLY WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THE QUOTA SYSTEM AND THEREFORE AUTOMATIC A-1-C ENDORSEMENT CAN BE MADE UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF ORDER P-56, PROVIDING A QUOTA HAS BEEN GRANTED FOR THE THIRD QUOTA=

F O HAUSSERMANN ASSISTANT TECHNICAL ADVISOR METAL MINES WAR PRODUCTION BOARD.

RECEIVED
JUL 15 1942

STATE DEP'T OF GEOLOGY & MINERAL INDS.
THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

Charge to the account of

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
DOMESTIC	CABLE
TELEGRAM	ORDINARY
DAY LETTER	URGENT RATE
SERIAL	DEFERRED
OVERNIGHT TELEGRAM	NIGHT LETTER
SPECIAL SERVICE	SHIP RADIOGRAM

Patrons should check class of service desired; otherwise the message will be transmitted as a telegram or ordinary cablegram.

WESTERN UNION

1206-B

CHECK
ACCOUNTING INFORMATION
TIME FILED

R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Send the following telegram, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

JULY 13, 1942

DR. WILBUR A. NELSON, ADMINISTRATOR
 MINING BRANCH, PRIORITIES DIVISION
 WAR PRODUCTION BOARD, TEMPORARY R BUILDING
 WASHINGTON, D.C.

QUICKSILVER SYNDICATE BLACKBUTTE MINES SERIAL NUMBER 33-6 BLACKBUTTE OREGON REQUIRES IMMEDIATELY TWO FEED WORMS FOR USE FEEDING ORE THEIR ROTARY FURNACES TO AVOID SHUTDOWN. WESTERN STEEL CASTING COMPANY PORTLAND OREGON ADVISES COMPANY AT LEAST A-1-J RATING OR HIGHER REQUIRED. WOULD THESE FEED WORMS BE REPAIR PARTS AND IF SO WOULD QUICKSILVER SYNDICATE BE ALLOWED A-1-c RATING USE ENDORSEMENT UNDER ORDER P-56 WITHOUT OBTAINING PERMISSION AND AUTHORIZATION NUMBER FROM MINING BRANCH.

Send Night Letter
 Government rate
 Send COLLECT

EARL K. NIXON
 OREGON EMERGENCY COORDINATOR OF MINES

QUICKSILVER SYNDICATE

A CORPORATION

BLACKBUTTE MINES

BLACKBUTTE, OREGON
July 9th. 1942

State Department of Geology
and Mineral Industries
Earl K. Nixon, Oregon Emergency
Coordinator of Mines.

Dear Sir.

We have your letter of the 8th.. We ordered two feed worms on June 29th. from Western Steel Casting Company, advising them of Mine Serial Number 33-6, Preference rating number P-56, Rating A8. also that under the new WPB Allocation Code the number would be 8.10/4.10/5.00 as our production goes into various instruments for air, army and navy services. Also that we would have to suspend operations if we run out of feed worms.

They replied that we would have to have a preference rating of A-1-J or higher and that we should apply to the WPB for such a rating. So we wrote them direct and then in Business Week found that Mr. Bergesch was supposed to help about priorities in this district. So we wrote him and he advised about getting a number from you instead of hurrying the job along with Western Steel Casting Company.

Either we are supposed to operate or are not essential. If we are essential we should be able to get supplies.

Yours truly,

QUICKSILVER SYNDICATE

By *Fred L. Mills* Mgr.

A-4163

RECEIVED
JUL 13 1942

STATE DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY
& MINERAL INDS.

July 8, 1942

Quicksilver Syndicate
Blackbutte
Oregon

Gentlemen: Attention: Mr. Fred L. Mills, Manager

Mr. J. Fred Bergesch, Priorities District Manager, has sent us copies of your letter to him dated July 3 and of his reply dated July 7.

Since you have a serial number, 33-6, I assume that you have ordered the repairs you require using A-1-c for repair parts and with this rating I should think you could get reasonably quick action. I judge, however, that the Western Steel Casting Company has advised you that they require further authorization.

If you will explain the circumstances to us, stating that failure to receive the repair parts in the very near future will cause you to shut down, I will take the matter up with the Priorities Division in Washington, D.C.

Yours very truly,

Earl K. Nixon
Oregon Emergency Coordinator
of Mines

FWL:EKN:jr

COPY

33-6

QUICKSILVER SYNDICATE

A Corporation

Blackbutte Mines

Blackbutte, Oregon
July 3, 1942

John Fred Bergesch
806 Bedell Bldg.
Portland, Oregon

Dear Sir.

In the June 27th. issue of Business Week I note that you should be contacted for assistance regarding priorities. A day or two ago I wrote to the War Production Board asking for priority on two worms, or feed screws that I had ordered from Western Steel Casting Company, Foot of Wood Street, Portland, on June 29th.

These feed worms feed the ore into the furnace and are an essential part of the machinery. The Western Steel Casting Company advised that it would take a month after they got authorization to get the work through their plant. We will be on the spot before that I am afraid and if you can hasten the manufacture of these items it may keep us in continuous operation. The War Production Board seems to be anxious to have us continue to produce mercury.

I might add that these items do not cause us to exceed our allocation for repairs.

Thanking you, I am,

Sincerely yours,

QUICKSILVER SYNDICATE

By (s) Fred L. Mills Manager

RECEIVED
JUL 8 - 1942
STATE DEPT OF GEOLOGY
& MINERALS

806 Bedell Building
Portland, Oregon

July 7, 1942

Quicksilver Syndicate
Blackbutte Mines
Blackbutte, Oregon

Attention: Mr. Fred L. Mills, Manager

Gentlemen:

You are informed that the following procedure has been established whereby mining enterprises may obtain priority assistance:

The mining enterprise will contact Mr. Earl K. Nixon, State Coordinator of Mines, Woodlark Building, Portland, Oregon. If the enterprise is qualified in accordance with state regulations, Mr. Nixon will register it with the War Production Board in Washington, D.C., at which time, the War Production Board will issue to the mining enterprise, a serial numbered copy of order P-56 which order provides certain ratings for emergencies, for ordinary maintenance and repair, and for other contingencies.

Very truly yours,

J. Fred Bergesch
PRIORITIES DISTRICT MANAGER

CHMCLUSKY:LS

cc Earl K. Nixon

March 30, 1942

Mr. Fred L. Mills, Manager
Quicksilver Syndicate
Black Butte, Oregon

Dear Mr. Mills:

Referring to your letter dated March 26 and concerned with reporting on Form PD-119, we realize fully the trouble caused by and the time consumed in making such reports as are now required, especially in the priority matters.

This office, however, has nothing to do with making any rules and are only attempting to transmit rulings from the Priorities Division to mine operators and in so doing to protect the latter insofar as we can.

When you received your mine serial number, you should have also received Form PD-119 reproductions from which would be used for making monthly reports. The Priorities Division did not send us any extra forms and told us that mine operators were supposed to retain the form sent them for a sample and to reproduce from the sample the form that they would use each month.

We have, however, typed a copy of the original form and are sending it herewith. It is our belief that to avoid any future difficulties with the Priorities Division, you should make your monthly reports on such a form.

Sincerely yours,

Oregon Emergency Coordinator of Mines

FWL:EKH:jr

QUICKSILVER SYNDICATE

A CORPORATION

BLACKBUTTE MINES

BLACKBUTTE, OREGON
March 26th. 1942

State Department of Geology and Mineral Resources
702 Woodlark Building,
Portland, Oregon

Attention Earl K. Nixon
Oregon Emergency Coordinator
of Mines.

Gentlemen.

We have your letter of the 25th. but do not seem to have any Form PD-119. About half our time is used in making reports, as that seems to be more important than production, but we do not seem to have any of the form mentioned.

So far as we can tell from invoices the only times we might have used the priority number would be in purchases from Graber-Gettys Hardware Company, Cottage Grove, as follows:-

2/5	24 caps and gaskets for spray nozzles	--4.85
2/18	" " " " " " " "	4.85
2/28	50# 3/16 98 Wilson Rod	4.60

Yours truly,

QUICKSILVER SYNDICATE

By *Fred L. Mills* Mgr

RECEIVED
MAR 28 1942
STATE DEPT OF GEOLOGY
& MINERAL INDS.

March 25, 1942

Black Butte Quicksilver Syndicate
Black Butte
Oregon

Gentlemen:

Attention: Fred L. Mills, Secretary

Referring to your letter dated March 5 in which you state that no rated purchases were made by you under Order P-56 for January, the Administrator, Mining Branch, Priorities Division, War Production Board, has informed us several times that one requirement of possessing a mine serial number is that the mine operator must make monthly reports of rated purchases made on Form PD-119.

The Administrator has stated that in case no rated purchases were made during a month, that fact should be so stated on Form PD-119. In order to have your records clear in this office, please fill out Form PD-119 and state in the form that no rated purchases were made. Another report for the month of February has been due in this office since March 10.

For your own protection please keep your reports up-to-date for at any time an inspector from the priorities office may ask to examine our records. Failure to make reports as directed under Order P-56 may result in cancellation of serial numbers.

Yours very truly,

Earl K. Nixon
Oregon Emergency Coordinator
of Mines

FWL:EKN:jr

QUICKSILVER SYNDICATE

A CORPORATION
BLACKBUTTE MINES

BLACKBUTTE, OREGON
March 5th. 1942

Earl K. Nixon
Oregon Emergency Coordinator of Mines
702 Woodlark Bldg. Portland, Oregon

Dear Mr. Nixon.

We have your letter of the 3rd. relative to purchases made under O.P.M. Order No. P-56 for January.

Have looked over invoices and find none that seem to have required any priority rating.

We do not appear to have any forms except the sample sent with your original letter. Can these be obtained anywhere?

Yours truly,

QUICKSILVER SYNDICATE

By *Fred L. Mills* Secretary

RECEIVED
MAR 6 - 1942

STATE DEPARTMENT
& MINERAL BUREAU

March 3, 1942

Black Butte Quicksilver Mine
Black Butte
Oregon

Gentlemen:

In checking over our files containing reports of rated purchases made under O.P.M. Order P-56, we find that you have not reported for the month of January, 1942. This report was due in this office by February 10.

The Administrator of Mining Branch, Priorities Division, is rather strict about having these reports on file and at any time an inspector from the Office of Production Management may check on these reports. For your own protection you should keep your reports strictly and promptly up-to-date. Otherwise the Administrator may cancel your serial number. Please give this matter your immediate attention and file the January report at once. Also please note that the February report is due on or before March 10.

We do not wish to make it difficult for you and realize that most mining operations have a multitude of reports to make. However, we are entrusted with a certain duty by the Office of Production Management and have no recourse but to notify the Administrator if the reports do not come in with reasonable promptness.

Very truly yours,

Earl K. Nixon
Oregon Emergency Coordinator
of Mines

FWL:EKN:jr

RECEIVED
OCT 14 1941

QUICKSILVER SYNDICATE

A CORPORATION
BLACKBUTTE MINES

STATE DEPT OF GEOLOGY
& MINERAL INDS.

BLACKBUTTE, OREGON
October 11th. 1941

Earl K. Nixen
Oregon Emergency Coordinator of Mines
702 Woodlark Bldg. Portland, Oregon.

Dear Sir.

In reply to your letter of October 9th. regarding
priority preference rating will say that at this time we are
employing twenty seven men, and running usually about sixty
tens or ere a day.

Yours truly,

QUICKSILVER SYNDICATE

By *Fred L. Mills* Secretary

STATE DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY
AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES
Baker Field Office
2031 First Street
Baker, Oregon

April 30, 1958

Mr. Linn Hoover
Fuels Branch
U. S. Geological Survey
4 Homewood Place
Menlo Park, California

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Your letter of April 16th to Hollis Dole requesting information on the Black Butte and Elkhead mines has been forwarded to me. As you know from Mr. Wagner's letter, I have been out of the office, hence the delay in my getting an answer to you.

I have not yet visited the Black Butte nor the Elkhead mines. I do, however, have some information on the Black Butte mine, which I am almost certain is reliable but have not yet checked it out. I have a three page typed report prepared by Francis Frederick sometime in 1945 in connection with his work for our department. This work was not completed.

Frederick gives the total production as 15,433 flasks. Calculating from figures given by Schuette in Bull. #4, and by various Minerals Yearbooks and other sources, I am left with the assumption that the total may be some 100 flasks in excess of this figure. However, since Frederick gives the quantity (409,072 tons) and grade (2.9 #/ton) of ore treated, it seems that his figures must have originated from mine records. I feel safe in saying that the total production to 1943 was approximately 15,500 flasks. The Black Butte mine was operated almost continuously from 1927 until March 1942 by the Quicksilver Syndicate. Furnace operations continued from March 1942 to March 1943, retreating old tailings from the 1917-1918 period of operation. So far as I know no production was made between March 1943 and November 1956.

According to Frederick, most of the development from 1938 to 1942 was on the Dennis Creek level and the 1100 level. About 495 feet of drift and crosscut were driven on the 1100 level and about 270 feet on the Dennis Creek (1650) level. Stopping was mostly from the 400 level to the surface at the west end of the upper levels. Some stopping was done on the 900 and 1650 levels. Exploration on the 1650 or Dennis Creek level has not exposed ore of the size and grade mined above the 900 level.

During 1941 and 1942, the U.S.B.M. conducted an exploration program at the Black Butte reportedly blocking out a considerable tonnage of low grade ore. U.S.B.M. War Minerals Report 48, January 1943, gives the results of this work and also summarizes the history and geology of the mine. Another report which you probably know about is: U.S.G.S. Limited Distribution Report; The Black Butte Quicksilver Mine, Waters, A.C., 1945. I have not seen this report but suspect that it is a very adequate coverage.

In 1955 the Mercury and Chemicals Corporation of New York leased the property from the Quicksilver Syndicate. The mine was refurbished and a 100 ton rotary furnace was installed. A DMEA loan of \$62,340 was granted. Production started in November 1956. Apparently, however, the operation was unsuccessful for the mine was shut down in July 1957. I have no idea what the production was but the furnace reportedly ran 24 hours per day for some time. Richard Fischer, 1897 Riverview Street, Eugene, Oregon, or 102 Alta Mesa Drive, South San Francisco, California was in charge.

I do not have any supplemental information on the Elkhead mine except a fairly reliable rumor that it is owned by R. M. Falk (M.D.) Route 1, Box 707, North Bend, Oregon.

I hope the above will be of some help to you. If you need information on other properties do not hesitate to write. I will give you all I have.

Sincerely,

/s/ Howard C. Brooks
Geologist

HCB:mr
cc Hollis Dole