

W. L. HYDE

ATTORNEY AT LAW
SUPERIOR, MONTANA

June 3, 1948.

Miss Laura Gilpin,
Box 1173,
Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Dear Miss Gilpin,-

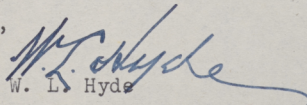
This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of the
28th of May.

I had never been apprised of your father's passing, but
realize that he was getting well along in years the last time I saw
him. I recall his speaking of you when I knew him here.

The only property I know of in which your father was in-
terested in in Montana was the Imperial and Elizabeth placer claims,
180 acres on McCormick Creek, a tributary of Nine Mile Creek in
Missoula County, Montana. Ed N. Scott of this place was a co-owner
and after your father left he maintained the claims in good standing
by performing the necessary annual labor required under the Federal
Statutes. This property was taken under lease by about five dif-
ferent persons, each of whom failed to make good, and there was at
least one law-suit involving one of the lessees which I handled for
Mr. Scott. Neither the leasing or the law-suit has been the source
of any revenue and I know that Mr. Scott has expended in money and
labor over several thousand dollars. He finally sold his interest
for \$150.00 to a Mr. R. F. Pfeffer who expended in the neighborhood
of \$7,000.00 in sinking shafts for testing the ground, the results
of which were pretty much disappointing. Last summer Mr. Pfeffer
leased to a man by the name of Demster who had been a successful op-
erator on Nine Mile creek and had worked adjoining ground to the one
in question. I saw him in Missoula a few days ago and he informed me
that the ground was so marginal in the production of gold that he
expected to shortly close down the operation unless there was a marked
change for the better. Personally, it is my opinion that this is an
asset that will have to be "written off" by anyone claiming an inter-
est.

If you desire any further information concerning this pro-
perty I shall be glad to help in any way I can. Am sorry I cannot give
you a more encouraging report on the property here.

Yours very truly,


W. L. Hyde

P.S. I seem to recall that your father sold his interest in
the property to Paul A. Wonacott for \$750.00. Wonacott was one of the
lessees.