Fruitvale B.C.

February 26th., 1958

002703

Mr. J.T.Fyles

DEPT. OF MINES

Dept. of Mines, Victoria,

Dear Jim:

Re your letter of the other day. I have been a little slow at answering but thought that I had better correlate what imformation I had with that which the C.M.&S. had. I was over in Trail to-day and tried to get a copy of "Comince" of about Jan. 1954 which contained a report by Horton re the discovery of the H.B. They did not have a spare on hand but promised to send me at once a copy of same. I expect to receive same in a few days when I will forward such to you.

From what imformation I have and which I beleive is correct and safe to put in print is that around 1902 or earlier a prospector by the name of Pederson and partner staked the ground covered by the H.B. and the Emerald. He sold the Emerald ground to Walbeiser who eventually formed the Iron Mountain? . I am missing a 1902 Minister of Mines Report but believe it mentions a man of that name as holding some 45 claims.

Back to the H.B. I feel that Pederson must have dropped this ground and same was then staked by H.M.Billings, P.F.Horton, S.N.Ross & P.F.Horton & J.A.Benson were the actual locators and used their J.A. Benson.

initials. I do not know how Billings came into the picture but know that Ross at that time had a store in Salmo and possibly came in by the way of grubstaking. While it is a local contention that Horton & Benson used their initials I have personaly always felt that such was just a little open to question. In 1912 this ground was known as the Hudson Bay Group and had claims as Easter, Canyon, Hudson Bay, Leadville, Carbonate Hill, Goldon, to which others were added later. The ground was later taken over by a company known as the "Hudson Bay Zinc Co. You will note that the claim that must

Have been known as the Hudson Bay was no doubt crown-granted as the H.B. on the maps. Why the difference I have wondered. And why the name "Hudson Bay" eropping up so early in the picture. You must use your own thoughts.

As to the actual year of discovery I have nothing definite but understand that numerous holes and prespecting were in existence from the turn of the centuary. As to when Horton and Benson staked the ground I have also nothing definite but feel they held such ground before the actual finding of the body of carbonate that was to make the mine. The discovery of such was made in the Spring of I9II.

I have an old copy of British Columbia Mining and Engineering Record, March 1912. Possibly you will have one in your dept. files and if so, you will note it states that the discovery of carbonate ore was made last Spring by J.A.Benson who sat down on a log to rest. It was raining and he noticed that while idling with his pick the ground showed a distinct mineralized appearance, etc.. It is quite a lengthy report and if you have not one on hand I will forward same along with the C.M.& S. depe.

I believe that the Emerald was staked as early as I895 or so and whether Pederson staked the H.B. ground then or later, there is hardly any way of being sure as all those old timers have passed along.

Whether this dope is of any use to you or not I do not know but can say it is the same as such records the C.M.& S. have. When I get the smelter data I will forward at once.

Hoping to hear from you again if I can be of any help and hoping you and wife are in the best of health and that I may run on to you this summer.

