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#### PORT HARDY, BRITISH COLUMBIA



Aerial view of Island Copper's open pit mine near Port Hardy as it looks today. The pit eventually will occupy an area of about 490 acres.

## Prospectors flocked to North Island in 1960s

In 1963, when the federal Department of Mines published maps based on an aerial magnetometer survey of the North Island, there was an immediate rush of interest among the mining fraternity.

Individual prospectors and companies flocked to the area to make a closer study of the many anomalies shown on the maps. (An anomaly is not an indication of ore. It is only a sign of something different to the surrounding country, "The interest was based on a low-grade magnetic anomaly as shown on the aero-magnetic maps. It was for the ironcopper possibilities that I further prospected the mine area in 1964 and 1965, staking additional claims in each of these years." In all, he staked about 150 claims.

It was in 1965 that Mr. Milbourne found a small piece of high-grade copper float a short distance south of the west end of Bay Lake.

## In early papers Optimism for copper finds

The North Island's first mining operation dates back to 1849 when the schooner 'Harpooner' arrived with a group of Welsh and Scottish miners to work the coalfields at Suquash, midway between Port Hardy and Port McNeill.

That operation didn't last long once the big deposits of higher grade coal were found at Nanaimo, but Suquash opened up again in 1909 under the name of Pacific Coast Coal Mines Ltd. That operation folded shortly after the Second World War after producing only a few thousand tons.

Iron mining also had a relatively brief fling in the area. Nimpkish Iron Mines was in production just south of Nimpkish Lake during the 1950s and Empire Development Co. started another iron operation at Benson Lake in 1957 which lasted for 10 years.

Copper mining got its start on the North Island about 1900 when the Yreka mine went into production. The mine was on the west shore of Neroutsos Inlet, almost opposite Jeune Landing. About 1911, the Old Sport mine near Benson Lake was discovered. This later came under the control of Cominco Ltd. and was operated under the name of Coast Copper Company.

There was a lot of optimism surrounding the Coast Copper operation and much of that optimism flowed from the pages of the Hardy Bay News. The News, published sporadically during 1913 and 1914, was put out by a group of real estate swindlers selling property in Port Hardy, which at that time was located on the east side of Hardy Bay.

"Very few people on the outside realize the vast area of copper-bearing rock adjacent to Hardy Bay," the News trumpeted in one report. "The coming spring we expect a big move in the north end of the Island in the copper industries."

Access to the mine in those days was through Jeune Landing where supplies were brought in aboard CPR ships (Continued on Page 6)

### All about Island Copper

This is your guide to the copper mining operation at the Island Copper Mine near Port Hardy on northern Vancouver Island. We hope it will help you to understand the complexities of the copper recovery process and serve as an introduction to the people employed here. In this guide you will find: Pages 1 and 6 -The history and discovery of the Island Copper deposit. Page 2 -An introduction to the company and its employees. Pages 3-5 -Details of the mine and mill operations. Page 6 -Quick facts about Island Copper.

where there just might be L something.)

Most of the searchers were looking for iron. They didn't find it and, within the next two years, most of them had given up and left to look for greener fields. One who didn't leave was Gordon Milbourne. "I had prospected on the coast, including northern Vancouver Island, for a few years prior to 1963 mainly for iron

or iron-copper prospects," said Mr. Milbourne. "The

first four claims on what is

now the Island Copper mine

were staked in May, 1963.

Laboriously, he dug two pits down to bedrock and there he found ore-grade material.

"Several major companies were contacted in 1965," he said. "A few, including Japanese interests, made field examinations of the claims, but most couldn't see any potential in the prospect."

Utah had been working on the west coast of the Island since 1961 and had conducted studies along the coast starting at Port Renfrew. In 1962, some reconnaissance was done on some claims in the Zeballos (Continued on Page 6)



Today giant shovels and trucks operate around the clock at the heart of the mine operation -a far cry from the laborious excavation efforts of early prospectors.

# Island Copper people are key to success

More than 850 men and women from across Canada and from countries such as Britain, the Philippines, Australia, India and the U.S. are employed at the Island Copper Mine.

They are truck drivers, mechanics, electricians, pollution control technicians, heavy equipment operators, warehousemen, mining engineers, carpenters, cooks, secretaries, computer technicians...just about the whole range of job and career classifications are represented.

The main division in the work force is between those employed in the pit and those in the mill, but there are also major groups in the support services including the environmental and metallurgical departments, mine and mill maintenance, warehousing, shiploading, engineering, geology department and administration.



has had a major impact upon Port Hardy.

In 1969, before the mine started up, some 1,250 people lived in the town and most were employed in the fishing, logging and related industries. In sharp contrast, the population 11 years later had reached more than 5,000.

Island Copper, besides adding substantially to residential housing in the community, also donated land for a park, a medical clinic and a church.

The increased prosperity brought to the area also was reflected in the construction of shopping centres, motels and hotels, and substantial improvements and expansions to the local school system, new recreational facilities and improved municipal services for water and sewage. A significant event for the North Island was the completion in 1979 of a paved highway from Campbell River and its tie-in with a new ferry service from Port Hardy north to Prince Rupert. This brought increased tourism and other economic activity to Port Hardy and other communities in the area.

Island Copper offers a training program for the various classifications in both the pit and the mill and also encourages employees to take part in apprenticeship programs and governmentsponsored courses leading to professional, technical and administrative positions. Financial assistance is provided by both government and the company to this end.

Women are employed in all departments at Island Copper at jobs ranging from truck driver to rodman, computer operator to accounting clerk.

In addition to their regular jobs, a large number of Island Copper personnel are involved in mine safety programs. Personnel trained in first aid and mine rescue techniques are on call on all shifts and the mine also has its own firefighting crews. These teams are backed up with a complete range of first aid and rescue equipment

including an ambulance and a fire truck.

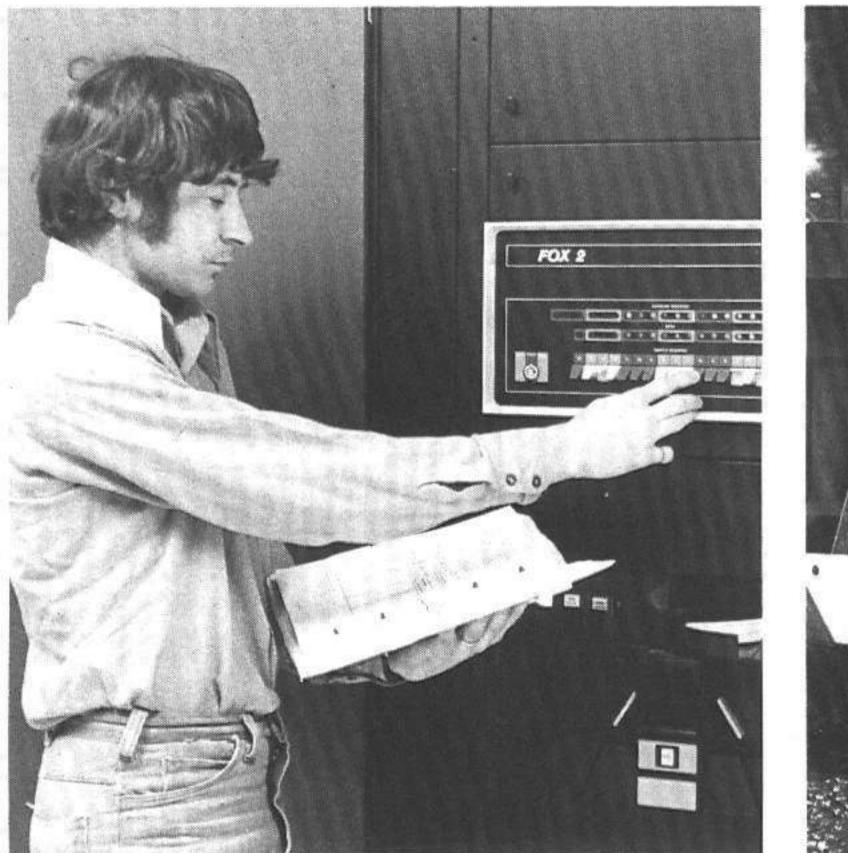
Most of the mine's employees live in Port Hardy and commute the 11 miles to the property. To provide housing for employees, Island Copper constructed a major subdivision in the town comprised of single-family houses, duplexes, townhouses and apartments, and a trailer park. These are available on both a purchase and rental basis and buyers enter a re-purchase arrangement with the company. Island Copper, with a large number of employees and their families living in the community and with its purchases of supplies and services from North Island merchants,

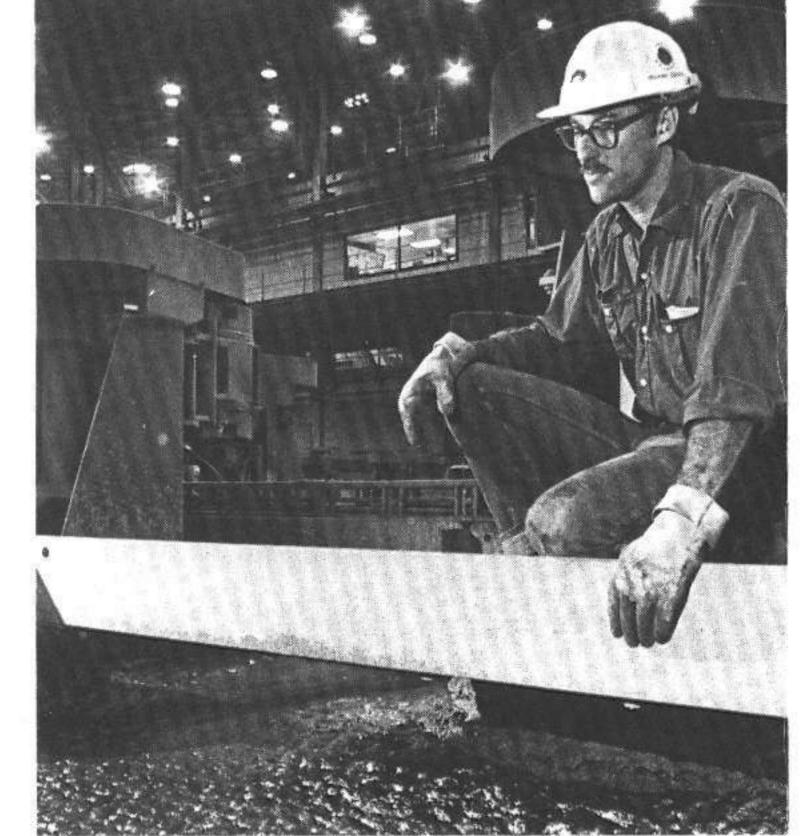
Island Copper employees are closely involved with the workings of the community, serving as aldermen, supporting local service clubs and organizations, and participating in community volunteer organizations and projects.











## by General Electric

Utah International Inc., the parent company of Utah Mines Ltd., has Canadian roots dating back to the 1880s, when two brothers who were later to play a role in establishing the company undertook a sub-contract to participate in construction on the Canadian Pacific Railway near Calgary.

From its early beginnings in railroad construction, the company expanded its activities to include dams, canals, bridges and highways in Canada and the United States, as well as many other parts of the world.

In the 1940s Utah participated in the construction of the Alaska Highway, stretching some 1,600 miles to link British Columbia with Alaska. A decade later Utah opened the Argonaut mine on Vancouver Island to develop known iron ore deposits and to prospect for other reserves. A small and not very profitable mine, the Argonaut was a pioneer supplier of iron ore to Japan.

### Land development

During the mid 1950s Utah took part in the construction of the St. Lawrence Seaway and participated in a joint venture to build the Grass River Lock. Construction of homes on Lulu Island near Vancouver and of the 19-storey Burrard Building, one of the first postwar highrise buildings in downtown Vancouver, were among Utah's land development projects. In 1969, Utah International divested itself of all its construction assets to concentrate on mining and ocean shipping activities. These mining interests today include coal, copper, uranium, iron ore and petroleum, with operations in Canada, the U.S., Australia and Brazil. Utah Mines Ltd. was formed in 1971 as a subsidiary of Utah International and is responsible for all Canadian operations, including the Island Copper Mine and an active exploration program throughout Canada. In 1976, Utah International merged with General Electric – the largest corporate merger in U.S. history. Utah International now operates as a wholly-owned subsidiary of General Electric but with its own board of directors and management structure.

Island Copper's employees come from all over the world and make their contribution to the operation in numerous jobs.

## Maintenance group is a third of work force

Island Copper are aware that own area of responsibility. there are support services to the main jobs of mining section, "cat" section, pit and milling the ore, many are surprised by the degree of importance attached to those "secondary" functions.

A good case in point is the primary role played by maintenance in the operation of the mine. Most people naturally assume that there are mechanics around somewhere to tinker with all the heavy equipment – but are surprised to learn that more than one third of the mine's total work force is employed in mine and mill maintenance! The maintenance functions are as numerous and as varied as the mine operations themselves, ranging from road and drainage construction in the pit, through repairs to the haul trucks and other heavy equipment, to maintenance of the complicated milling equipment in the concentrator. The mine maintenance department alone is divided into no less than nine sepa-

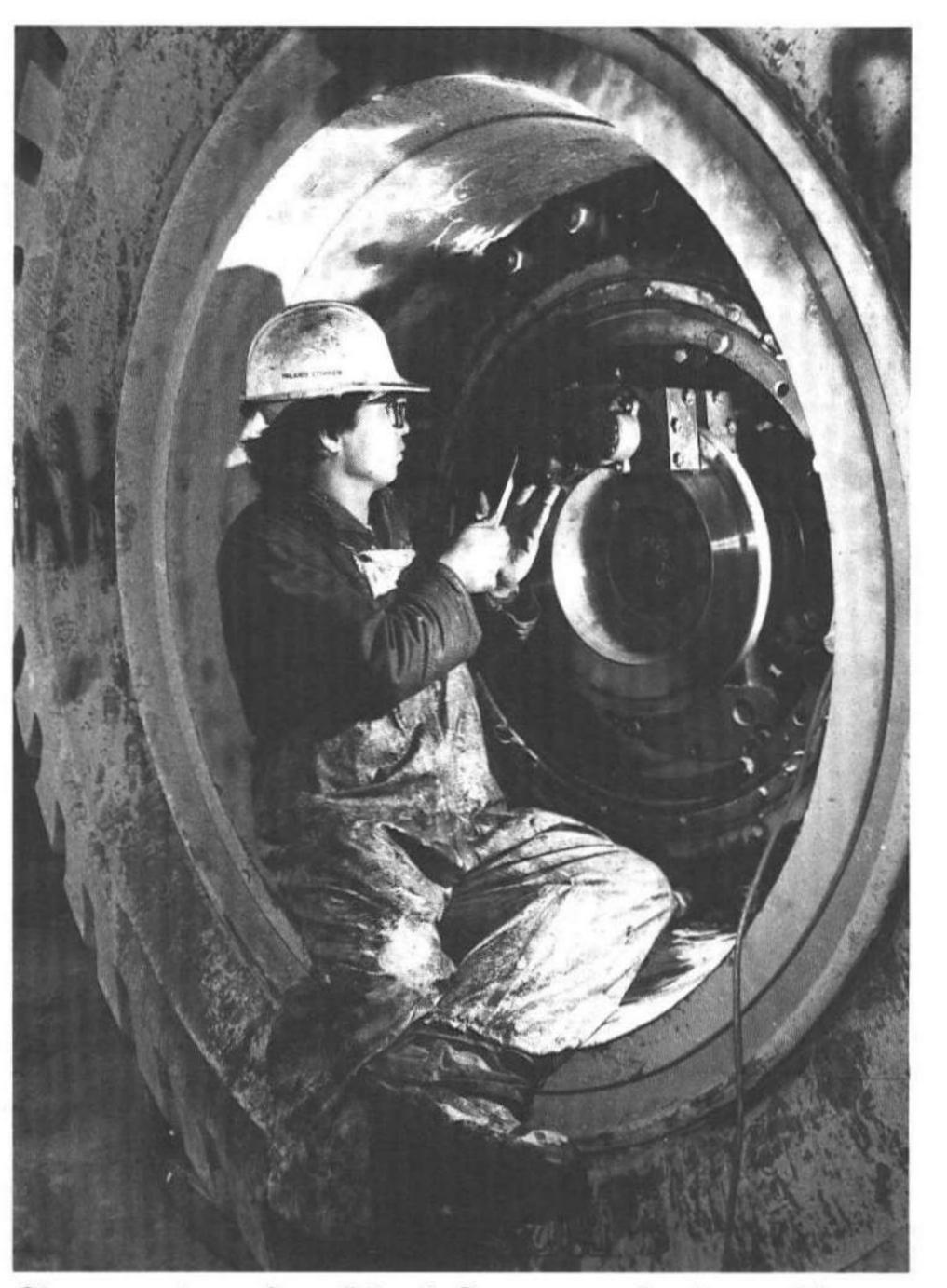
While most visitors to rate sections, each with its These are the haul truck maintenance, lubrication bay and the electrical, welding, tire, machine and gas shops. Then there are special sections such as the mobile crews which work on the big shovels and drills in the pit, and the special projects crew which tackles non-routine jobs in the mill. All these sections are on the job 24 hours a day to keep up with the wear and tear to equipment. The big haul trucks, for example, are refueled and the oil level checked twice every 24 hours. They are brought into the shop every 84 hours for lubrication and a complete inspection of every moving part. Every 150 or 250 hours, depending on the type of engine, the trucks come in for a complete inspection and an oil and filter change. The same kind of preventive maintenance and repair schedules apply to the

big shovels, drills, dozers

and graders – not to mention

the more than 90 small vehicles including pickups, fork lifts, dump trucks, lube and fuel trucks and small tractor units.

Some idea of how tough the road and weather conditions can be on the operating equipment can be seen in a comparison of the "life" of an ordinary pickup truck. Where a pickup might get 100,000 miles on the highway, it may be good for only 30,000-50,000 on the mine property. One of the jobs of the maintenance department is to modify the equipment wherever possible so it will stand up better. Maintenance costs are an important factor in a mining operation. For example, Island Copper spends more than \$3 million a year on tires alone, ranging from \$40 for a pickup tire to more than \$10,000 for a Mark 36 tire which is 10<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> feet in diameter and weighs 5,200 pounds. The maintenance department depends on both the inventiveness and skills of the maintenance crews and



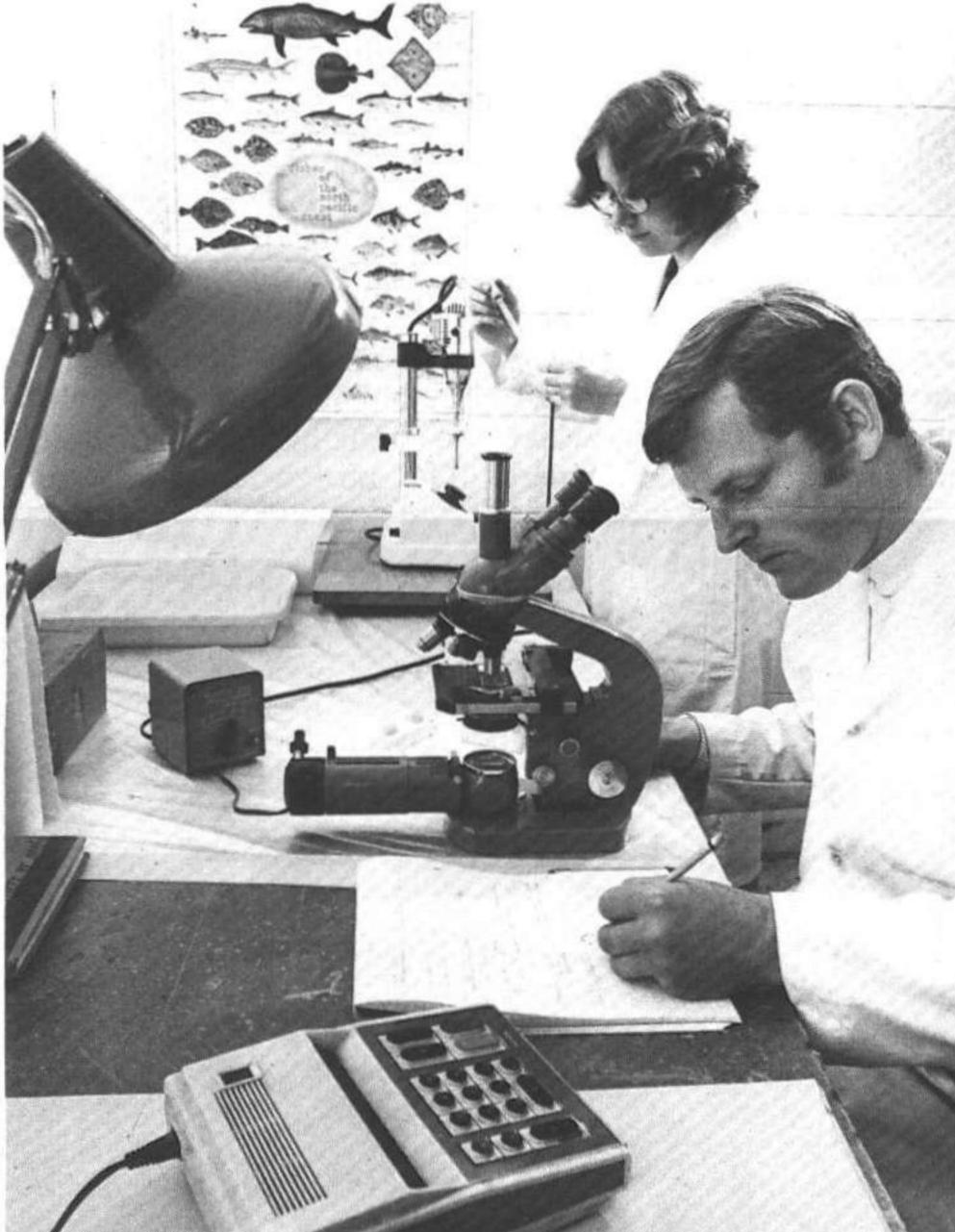
Close-up view of an Island Copper mechanic working on the wheel of a giant haul truck.

on modern technology to keep the wheels turning. For example, a sophisticated "load box" is used to simulate all conditions under which the haul trucks operate

so they can be checked out in the shop. Space-age items like an ultrasonic flaw detector are used to check for cracks in truck wheels and mill bearings.

## Environmentalists keep an eye on mine's effect

A mining operation of the size of Island Copper is bound to have a substantial impact on the local environment and ecology, and it is the job of the mine's environmental department to ensure that the negative effects are kept to a minimum. This job began in 1969, before the mill was built, when Utah initiated an environmental program to obtain base data against which future data could be measured. A monitoring program covering all parameters which could be affected by the mill effluent went into operation in March, 1971. Major parameters include the physical characteristics of the bottom of Rupert Inlet which are monitored with seismic profiles, bottom photography, dredging and coring of the bottom for sediment analysis.



evaluated by scientists employed by the provincial and

have not been taken up into the marine food chain to a

The environmental department also monitors meteorological characteristics and the chemical characteristics of the Inlet including measurement of dissolved oxygen, salinity, alkalinity and heavy metal content.

federal governments.

While there has been an obvious change in the configuration of the bottom of Rupert Inlet from the tailings disposal, the impact on marine life has been much as expected.

The main changes have taken place in a small area around Hankin Point where the original rock bottom has been covered with sediment. The effect has been the replacement of marine life which lives on rock algae by marine life which lives on the eel grass growing in the sediment.

Marine organisms continue to inhabit those areas of Rupert Inlet covered by mine tailings and the productivity of higher forms of marine life such as shellfish, salmon, crab and shrimp does not appear to have been affected. One potential seen by the scientists, however, is that a changing habitat might bring in different species, although this would happen only in a limited area. The mill tailings themselves are composed mainly of material – quartz siliceous and feldspar. The only elements of significance present in the Inlet in higher than natural amounts are copper and molybdenum and these

degree which would be harmful. Most of the chemical reagents used in the milling process adhere to the concentrates which are shipped for sale. Those remaining in the tailings are at innocuous concentrations.

On the land side of the operation, most of the overburden and waste rock removed from the pit is dumped as land fill along the shore of the Inlet, adjacent to the pit. As the pit is mined to the outer limits of the ore body at various points, these areas are seeded and planted in an on-going reclamation program.

While some reseeding of logged-over areas adjacent to the property was done as early as 1971, the first major reclamation project began in April, 1978, at the area known as the north dump, when the pit reached its limit at that point. The new growth is quite evident.

The biological characteristics of the plankton and other marine life in Rupert Inlet and the adjacent waters of Holberg Inlet and Quatsino Sound are also monitored. Atomic absorption, photomicrography

Environmental department personnel analyze data as part of an extensive monitoring program at Island Copper.

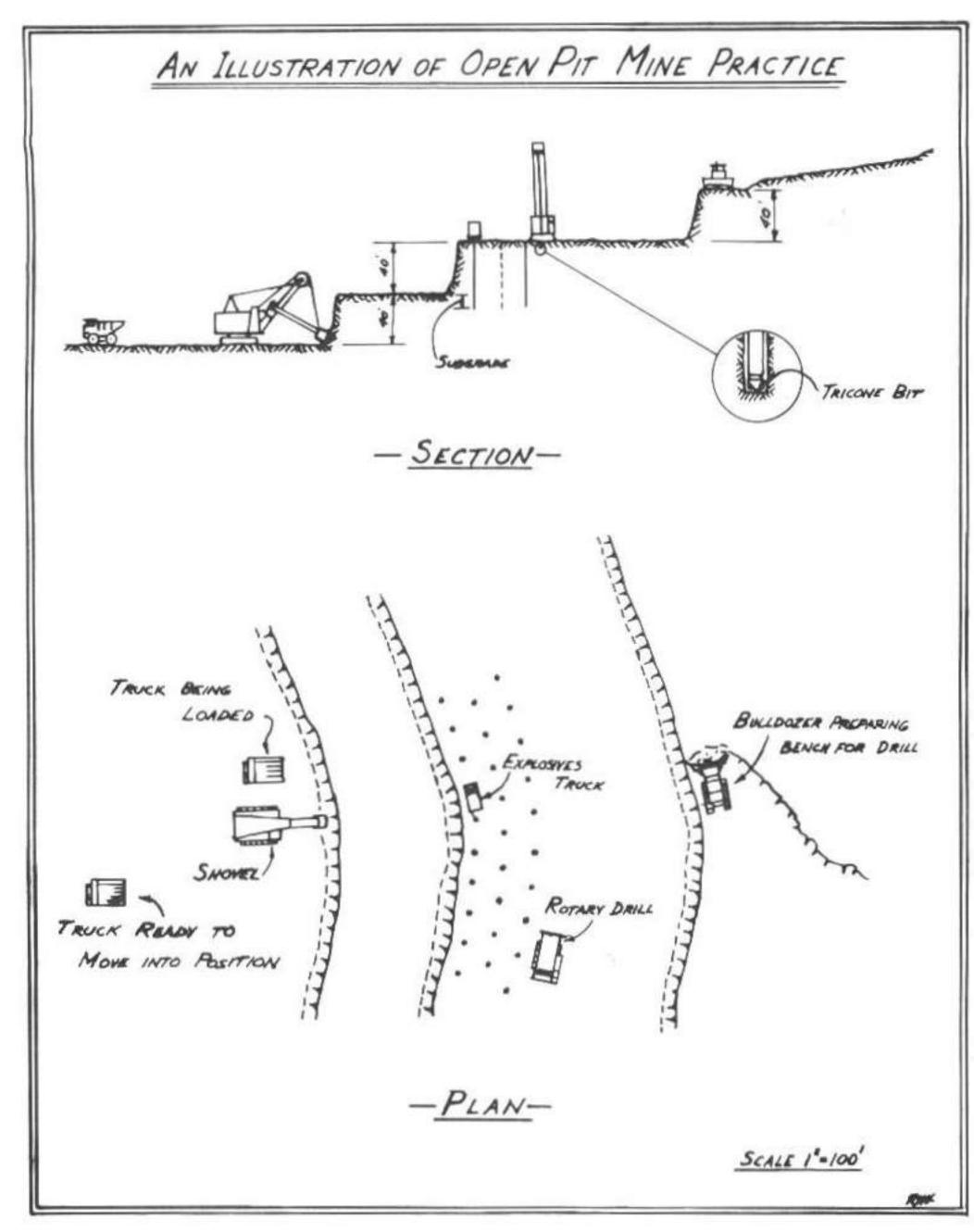
Columbia, Simon Fraser Uniand similar sophisticated versity and University of techniques are standard to the Victoria oversee the mine's control program. Oceanographers, marine environmental monitoring program and make recommendabiologists and other scientists from the University of British tions. The program also is

The objectives of the reclamation program are to ensure that natural erosion and siltation will be stabilized and vegetation provided to make a habitat for wildlife. This involves reseeding to produce grasses and shrubs, and reforestation with various types of trees including alder, hemlock and shade-tolerant firs.

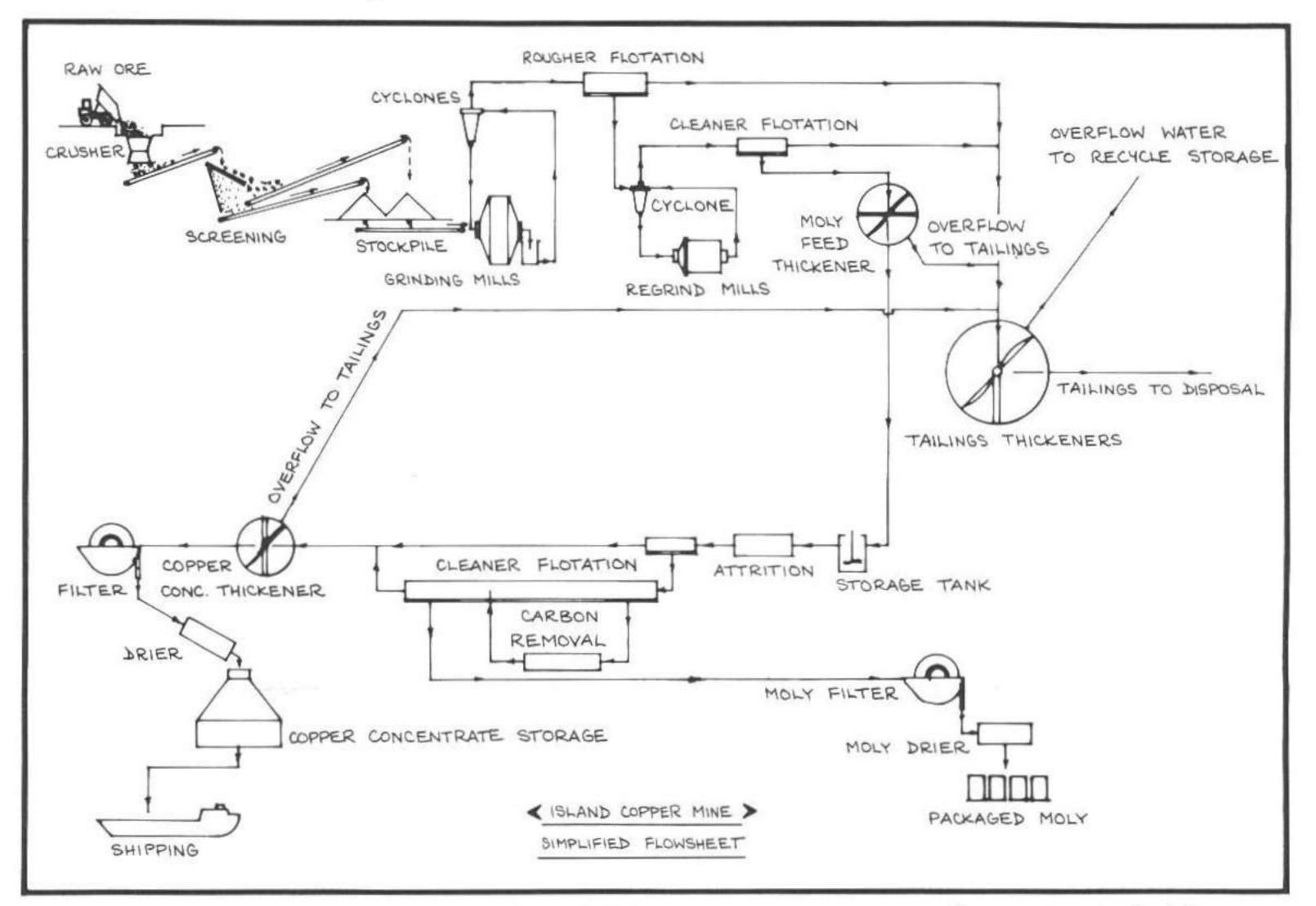
# It's a 24-hour business turning orebody into metal / Mining process described in detail



Electric shovels can load 120-ton and 170-ton capacity trucks in minutes, ready for transportation to the crusher.



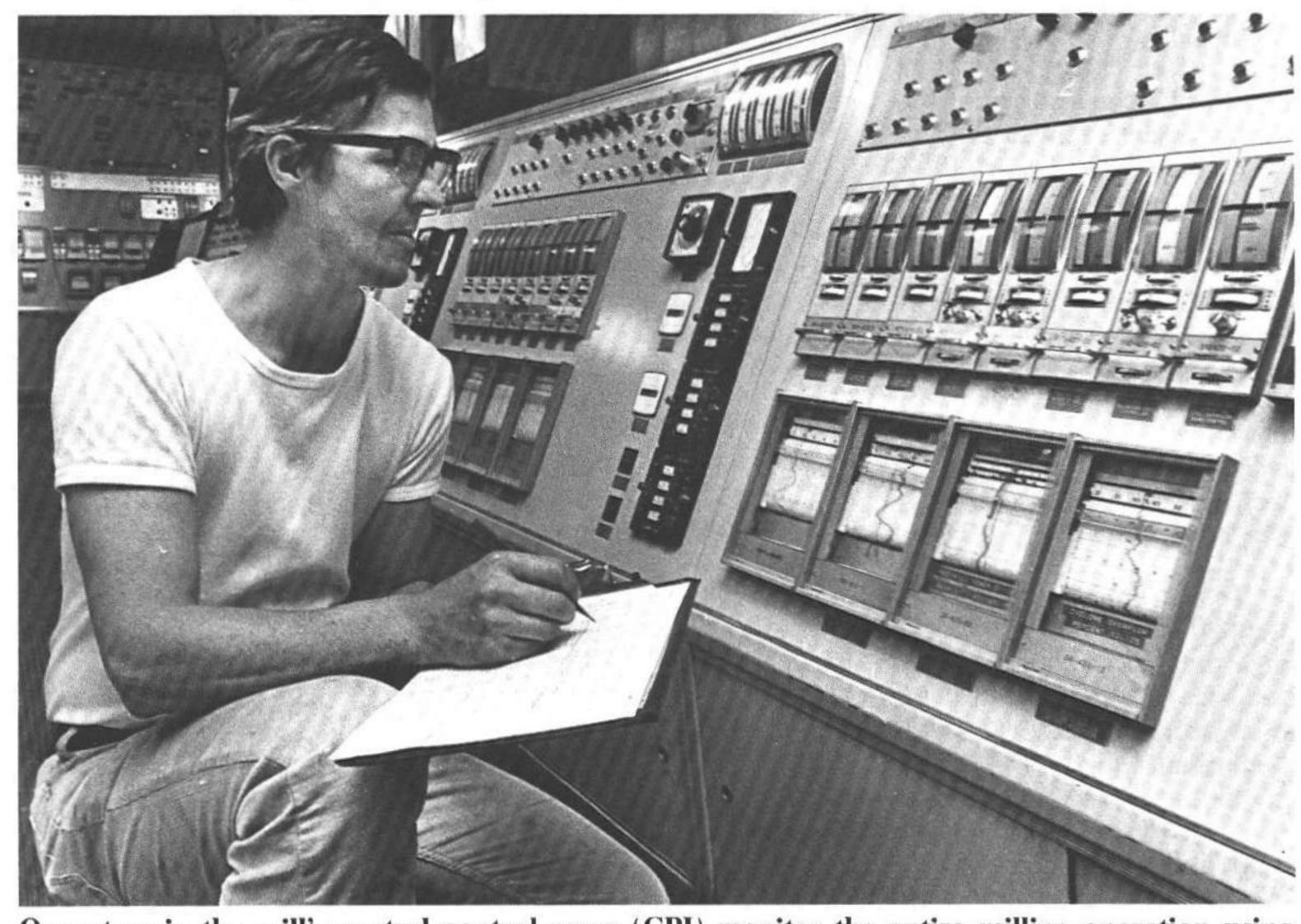
A typical mining operation viewed from two angles.



seven days a week, ore con- a total area of about 740 acres, taining copper and significant being 8,000 feet long, 4,000 amounts of molybdenum, feet wide and 1,000 feet below gold, silver and rhenium is sea level. mined and concentrated at Island Copper.

The ore body, which originally contained 280 million tons of ore averaging 0.52 per cent copper and 0.017 in diameter to a depth of 45 two Marion shovels with 15 per cent molybdenum, is mined using conventional open pit with 600 to 1,100 pounds of metal archways to be seen at methods. This means drilling high explosive, depending on shovel locations support the and blasting to loosen the over- the rock type. burden and rock, and removal of the ore by shovels and trucks.

tons of ore and waste are re- operated by Canadian Indus- 18 haul trucks of 120-ton moved each day depending tries Limited and carried to capacity and 26 trucks of on the depth worked, weather the holes in a special truck. 170-ton capacity. These masconditions and general mining The ingredients (not yet an sive vehicles are dieselrequirements. Projected over explosive) are combined in powered (1,600 h.p. V-16 the full life of the operation, liquid form just before being engines in the bigger trucks)



Operators in the mill's central control room (CPI) monitor the entire milling operation using closed-circuit TV cameras and other electronic devices.

Flow chart showing copper and molybdenum recovery process from start to finish.

Twenty-four hours a day, the pit will eventually occupy

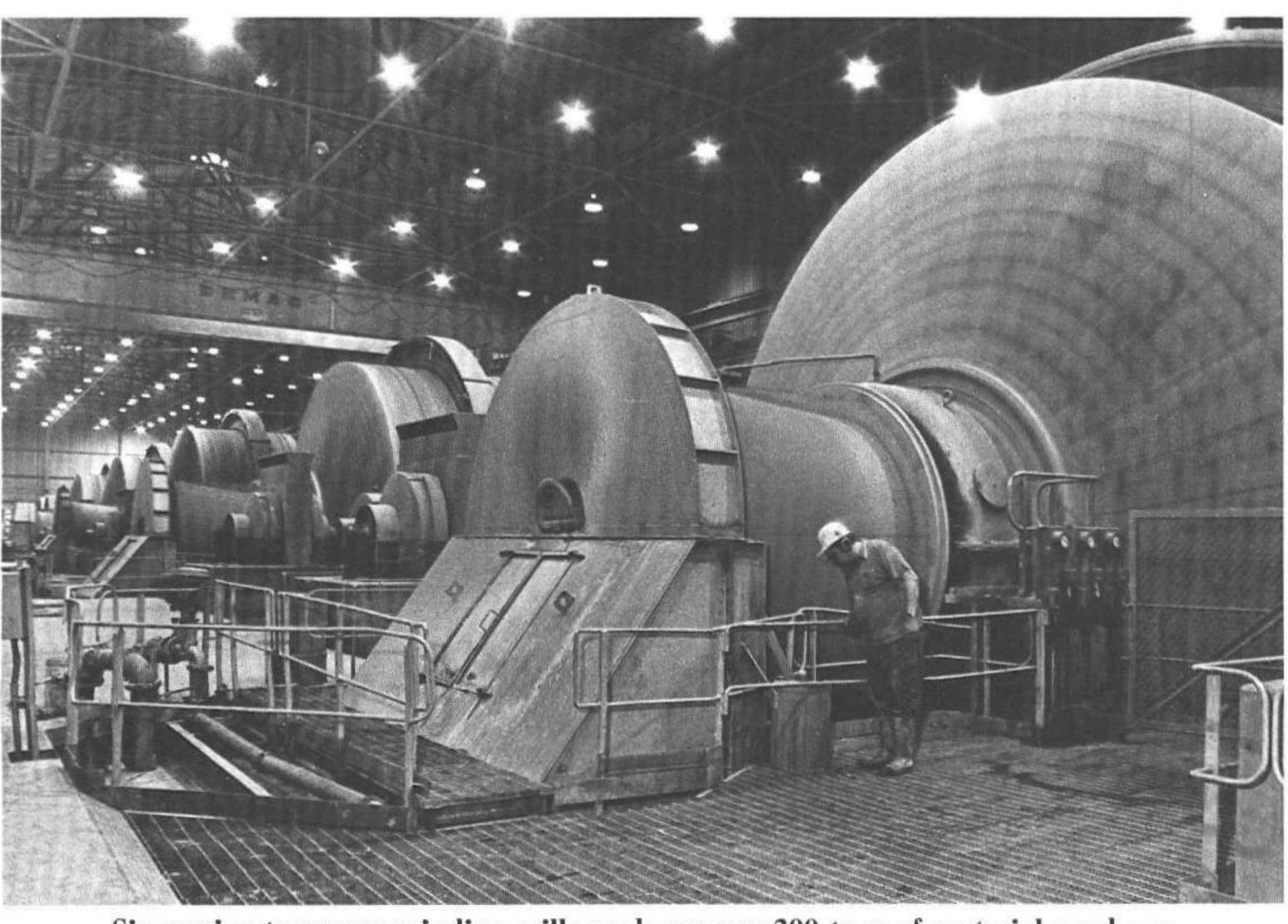
Drill holes for explosives are cut through the overburden and rock by five big electric drill rigs capable of

The explosive used in the

pumped into the drill hole. In the hole the explosive quickly 'sets up' to a consistency much like Jello. About 70,000 pounds of this 'slurried' explosive is used each day.

The broken material from the pit is loaded into trucks by drilling a hole about 10 inches five P&H electric shovels and feet. The holes are loaded cubic yard buckets. (The electric cables to the shovels).

The shovels, each with a pit is mixed right on the bucket capacity equivalent to property. Ingredients are about 25 tons, load the ore Some 150,000 to 180,000 partially mixed at a plant and waste rock into a fleet of



Six semi-autogenous grinding mills each process 300 tons of material per hour.

but the final drive is provided patch system which is unique reagents before being proby electric motors in each in British Columbia. The dis- cessed through a network of surface. wheel. Despite their size, patch tower (a converted air- flotation cells. In the cells, these trucks are relatively port control tower) is the theore particles are treated easy to drive, being equipped nucleus of a three-channel with flotation reagents which with a sophisticated system of radio network that links drills, electrical and hydraulic con- shovels, trucks, the crusher, phillic, or "attractive" to air trols. (As an indication of the concentrator and every bubbles generated by metheir size, consider that the department on the property. driver's eye level is 14 feet above the road). The maxi- the primary crusher which mum speed of the trucks is breaks the ore down into the surface of the cells where 20 m.p.h.

ations take place on 40-foot operations. The crusher can for further and more selective The copper concentrate is step in the operation of Island high terraces called "benches" handle pieces of rock as large treatment to separate the conveyed from the mill to a Copper. which are linked to the rim of as 54 inches on a side. De- molybdenite concentrate from cone-shaped storage facility Island Copper holds two the pit by 100-foot wide haul pending on the hardness of the copper concentrate. The where as much as 35,000 tons sales contracts with Japanese roads angled at up to a 10 the rock, production of be- slurry containing the worth- can be stockpiled. The molyb- firms. Mitsui Mining & Smeltper cent grade. The haul from tween 2,500 and 3,000 tons less material, or tailings, is denum product is packed in ing Co. Ltd. is taking about the lowest bench currently per hour can be maintained – processed through thickeners steel drums for shipment to two-thirds of the copper probeing worked involves a reducing the rock to a maxi- to reclaim water for reuse in customers in Europe and the duction and the remainder is vertical climb of some 440 mum size of about nine inches. the mill. The remaining tail- United States for use primarily committed to Mitsubishi feet to the top of the pit.

ore to a primary crusher veyors to two vibrating screens located about a mile by road which separate the ore into from the pit entrance and plus four inch and minus four carry the waste rock to a land- inch fractions. From there, fill area at the northern edge the ore is stockpiled until it of the pit and a beach dump is fed into the six semion the shore of Rupert Inlet. autogenous grinding mills in An average three tons of the concentrator building. waste rock are currently Each of these revolving being removed for every ton mills weighs 600 tons and is of ore-bearing rock.

and the difficult road con- largest in the world, these ditions caused by trucks mills can each process 300 moving constantly in an area tons of material per hour. of heavy rainfall, make it Steel balls and water are necessary to have a large added to facilitate the grindfleet of auxiliary vehicles. ing process which reduces the These include seven graders, ore to fine particles about the five D-8 and five D-9 (or Additional grinding capacity bigger) dozers. Also used for is available from three auxiliary and back-up work secondary ball mills. Apare a six-yard loader and four proximately 15 million tons of 35-ton trucks. A gradall and ore is milled each year. backhoe are on hand for ditch work.

the associated services are classifying, regrinding and concontrolled through a pit dis- ditioning by the addition of

The pit operation ends at

The haul trucks move the ported along a system of con- and discharged into Rupert The molybdenite contains Mining Company.

driven by two 3,500 horse-The dumping operations, power motors. Among the rubber-tired dozers, consistency of coarse sugar.

At this stage the primary ground ore is in a slurry form Most of these vehicles and and is further prepared by

render the mineral aerochanical agitators.

Attached to the bubbles, the copper material floats to pieces small enough to be it is skimmed from the flota-The truck-and-shovel oper- handled in the concentrator tion machine and collected



An on-stream analyzer in the mill at Island Copper provides computer printouts on the recovery and quality of the various products.



Modern techniques permit immediate sampling of metal content in the metallurgical laboratory.

Inlet 165 feet below the rhenium, a rare heavy metal

Modern scientific apparatus such as an on-stream x-ray analyser and atomic absorption spectrophotometers are used to monitor the metal content and quality. The entire milling operation is controlled from a central control room equipped with closed-circuit television cameras and other electronic monitors.

used in electronic and bimetallic catalytic applications such as the production of low-lead gasoline.

Location of the mine and mill on Rupert Inlet has made ocean shipment advantageous and the deep-sea dock can accommodate vessels up to 35,000 deadweight tons. Ships are loaded with copper concentrate at a rate of 1,000 tons per hour — the final

The crushed rock is trans- ings are mixed with sea water to strengthen and harden steel. Shoji Kaisha and the Dowa

## Big find came with large financial investment

### (Continued from Page 1)

which came up the west coast from Victoria. From Jeune Landing they were taken by pack horses the six miles to Alice Lake. There they were transferred to small boats to cross the lake, repacked on horses for the route to Kathleen Lake, back into boats to travel the length of the lake, and finally onto horses again for the last lap to the mine site.

Work at Coast Copper continued through the years, with considerable development occuring in the 1920s. However, it was shut down in 1931 and it wasn't until 1960 that the company decided to revive operations. A road was built to Port McNeill and the first load of copper concentrate left for Japan on August 27, 1962. The only other copper property to be brought into production back then was that at Yreka, on the west side of Neroutsos Inlet. It was worked for a time prior to the First World War, closed during the war and managed to ship a couple of

loads to a smelter at Tacoma after the war before work stopped again. The mine started up again in 1965 under Noranda's management and a concentrator was built which turned out 15 to 20 tons of concentrate a day until the mine was worked out and closed in 1969.

The Hardy Bay News hadn't been wrong when it promoted the presence of "immense copper fields" in the North Island area – but the statement had been based more on hope than on knowledge. The North Island is pockmarked with the empty holes left behind by the hundreds of prospectors who tried their luck – laboriously chipping at outcrops and hand drilling the holes to blast their tunnels in the sidehills – only to end up with nothing. The big strike, when it was made, was to be the work of a team of scientists using sophisticated instruments and backed by thousands of dollars. It was, however, an individual prospector's findings which brought the team to the area where they were to make their discovery.



Years of hope for large copper finds on the North Island were eventually proved well-founded. Now large vessels are a common sight in Rupert Inlet carrying concentrate to customers in Japan and Europe.

# QUICK FACTS

Ownership

Employees

The Pit

Mining

Equipment

**Ore Reserves** 

**Pit Production** 

Environment

Island Copper is owned and operated by Utah Mines Ltd., a subsidiary of Utah International Inc., of San Francisco. Utah International is an autonomous subsidiary of General Electric.

More than 850 men and women are employed in the pit, mill and support departments including maintenance, warehousing, shipping, environmental, metallurgy, engineering, geology and administration.

Projected over 25 years of operation, the pit eventually will occupy an area of about 740 acres, being 8,000 feet long and 4,000 feet wide to a depth of 1,000 feet below sea level.

## Exploration over

## Construction began in 1970

### (Continued from Page 1)

area and a large tract was staked on the north side of Holberg Inlet. But the main interest was in iron. This was the mineral in which the company had the most experience and for which it already had markets.



Meantime, prospector Paddy Storey had taken up an old copper property on Red Island in Rupert Inlet and in 1962 brought it to Utah's attention. The property originally was staked by a prospector named Reynaldo who sank a shaft there before disappearing from the local scene about 1915. Utah's assays showed 0.5 per cent copper which, in 1962, was still below the borderline of economic feasibility.

With Mr. Milbourne's find, the earlier information became significant. There was now a new dimension, with showings two miles apart. Diamond drilling and trenching were started in the vicinity of Mr. Milbourne's original pits.

Blasting in the pit is a sophisticated daily process to expose the ore first discovered by prospectors such as Gordon Milbourne.

at that time. We'd slip around in the muck and get slapped in the face by the wet brush and fall over the windfalls."

An intensive drilling program was started, extending "I remember that first through May, 1969, with a

Construction of the mine

1970 and continued through 1971. More than 600 men were employed during the construction phase which included putting in systems for water, power and sewage disposal

Everything about the mine is large-scale. The PH2100 shovels, for example, have a capacity of 25 tons and the haul trucks are of 120-ton and 170-ton capacity. The largest trucks weigh 120 tons empty.

Reserves are estimated at 280 million tons of copper-molybdenum ore with an average grade of 0.52 per cent copper and 0.017 per cent molybdenum. Small amounts of gold and rhenium are mined.

Some 150,000 to 180,000 tons of ore and waste are removed from the pit each day depending on mining conditions at the time.

The six semi-autogenous grinding mills **Grinding Mills** which reduce the ore to fine particles are among the largest in the world. They are 32 feet in diameter, weigh 600 tons and can process some 300 tons of material per hour.

The mill has a rated capacity of 41,000 **Mill Production** tons per day. Annual rated output is 230,000 tons of copper concentrate, sold to Japanese customers on long term contracts; and 1,800 tons of molybdenum concentrate, sold to U.S. and European

January when we were drilling the Bay claims," said 116,783 feet, or 22 miles. The Maurice Young, Utah's exdrill cores were bagged and ploration manager, North American Metals. "We were shipped to Vancouver for assaying and long before the drilling all living at the barracks at was finished it was obvious the Port Hardy airport. It was cold, and it rained every day. that there was an orebody. The toughest part was over. We got out to the claims about 9:30 in the morning and in the bush you could barely see and mill was begun early in

and building a road to connect total of 128 holes being drilled the mine site with the proto depths adding up to vincial highway.

> As construction activities neared completion, mining and milling operations were begun in the fall of 1971. Two months later, in December, 1971, the first shipload of copper concentrate destined for customers in Japan sailed from Rupert Inlet.

### steelmakers.

The mine has its own environmental department which continuously monitors the discharge of mill tailings into Rupert Inlet. The pollution control program is also monitored by scientists from University of B.C., Simon Fraser University and University of Victoria. The first land reclamation project started in 1971.