A REPORT ON A SILT SAMPLING PROGRAM IN THE MACKENZIE MOUNTAINS NAHANNI MINING DISTRICT N. W. T.

for

RIDGEMONT MINING CORPORATION

by

J. G. Simpson, Ph. D., P. Eng.

DECEMBER 1973

CONTENTS

	Page
INTRODUCTION	1
GEOLOGICAL SETTING	1
SILT SAMPLING	
Orientation Survey	2
Methods & Procedures	3
Results	
Area A	3
Area B	4
STAKING PROGRAM	5
CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS	5-6

MAPS & FIGURES

Bound in Text		Scale
Figure 1	Location Map	1" = 100 mi.
Figures 5 - 14	(see attached list)	
At Rear of Report		
Figure 2	Claims Sketch FKH 1-126	1" = 1/2 mi.
Figure 3	Claims Sketch ESK 1-109	1" = 1/2 mi.
Figure 4	Claims Sketch JBH 1-58 & MEB 1-58	1" = 1/2 mi.
MAP 1	Area A Geology	1:50,000
MAP 2	Area B Geology	"
MAP 3	Area A Sample Location Numbers	"
MAP 4	Area B Sample Location Numbers	"
MAP 5	Area A Silt Sample Results - Copper	"
MAP 6	Area B Silt Sample Results - Copper	"
MAP 7	Area A Silt Sample Results - Lead	"
MAP 8	Area B Silt Sample Results - Lead	"
MAP 9	Area A Silt Sample Results - Zinc	"
MAP 10	Area B Silt Sample Results - Zinc	"
MAP 11	Area B Claims	"

Figure 5	Histogram of Copper Silt Results - Area A
Figure 6	Histogram of Lead Silt Results - Area A
Figure 7	Histogram of Zinc Silt Results - Area A
Figure 8	Histogram of Copper Silt Results - Area B
Figure 9	Histogram of Lead Silt Results - Area B
Figure 10	Histogram of Zinc Silt Results - Area B
Figure 11	Histogram of Zinc Silt Results UNIT T, Area B
Figure 12	Histogram of Zinc Silt Results UNIT H, Area B
Figure 13	Histogram of Zinc Silt Results UNIT T, Grizzly Bear Lake Syncline, Area B
Figure 14	Histogram of Zinc Silt Results UNIT T, Broken Skull Belt, Area B

APPENDICES

Appendix (i)	Report on the Geological Compilation, Southeastern Yukon and Southwestern District of MacKenzie, Northwest Territories by G. Jilson, 1973
Appendix (ii)	Report on the Geochemical Orientation Survey in the Virginia Falls and Sekwi Mountain Areas, N. W. T. by P. Bradshaw, 1973
Appendix (iii)	Cost Summary

INTRODUCTION

Regional silt sampling and prospecting was carried out in two areas of Paleozoic rocks in the Selwyn Basin area covering spectacular mountainous terrain north of and paralleling the South Nahanni River. The project was proposed for Cyprus Exploration Corporation. Ltd. from a compilation and report assembled by G. Jilson, and was eventually carried out as a fifty-fifty joint venture between Ridgemont Mining Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of Cyprus Mines Corporation of Los Angeles, and Anvil Mining Corporation Ltd., with Ridgemont being responsible for management and direction of the program.

Initially, three areas of interest, designated A (Virginia Falls, Sheet 95F), B (Glacier Lake, Sheet 95 L), and C (Sekwi Mountain, Sheet 105P) as shown in Figure 1, were selected for study on the basis of intersecting northeasterly trending lineaments, with the middle Paleozoic, carbonate shale facies change line or shale-out zones. The location of known lead-zinc mineralization along some of these lineaments was noted and parallels with the Pine Point area suggested. The presence of recrystallized dolomite sequences and formations typical of reef front deposition was also considered a favourable aspect.

Using these data and the preliminary geological maps issued by the Geological Survey of Canada, an orientation survey was carried out over Area A and the immediate vicinity of the Cadillac deposit situated immediately to the southeast, and also in Area C. Ultimately the actual program was carried out over areas A and B as, although area C was perhaps better located with respect to existing access, it rapidly became evident that it was receiving attention from a number of exploration groups and on general geological grounds area B was no less favourable.

Between July 18th and August 17th using fixed wing supply and helicopter support, some 1000 square miles of country in areas A and B were silt sampled and prospected in detail, with approximately 4,500 samples taken and submitted for assay. As a direct result of this work, 352 claims were staked over two separate anomalies within area B, in which samples highly anomalous in zinc indicated possible zones of mineralization. A total of $114,000 was expended on the project in 1973.

GEOLOGICAL SETTING

The geology of the Selwyn Basin is discussed in detail in a report by G. Jilson 1973; Appendix (i) to this report. Within the areas surveyed sedimentary units range from Cambrian to possible Mississippian age and reflect a number of changes from basement deposition of argillaceous sediments to shallow water carbonate/dolomite facies. Maps 1 and 2 of this report are taken largely from the preliminary maps published by the Geological Survey although the correlative explanations were effected by comparing units in Area A with the more obvious formations

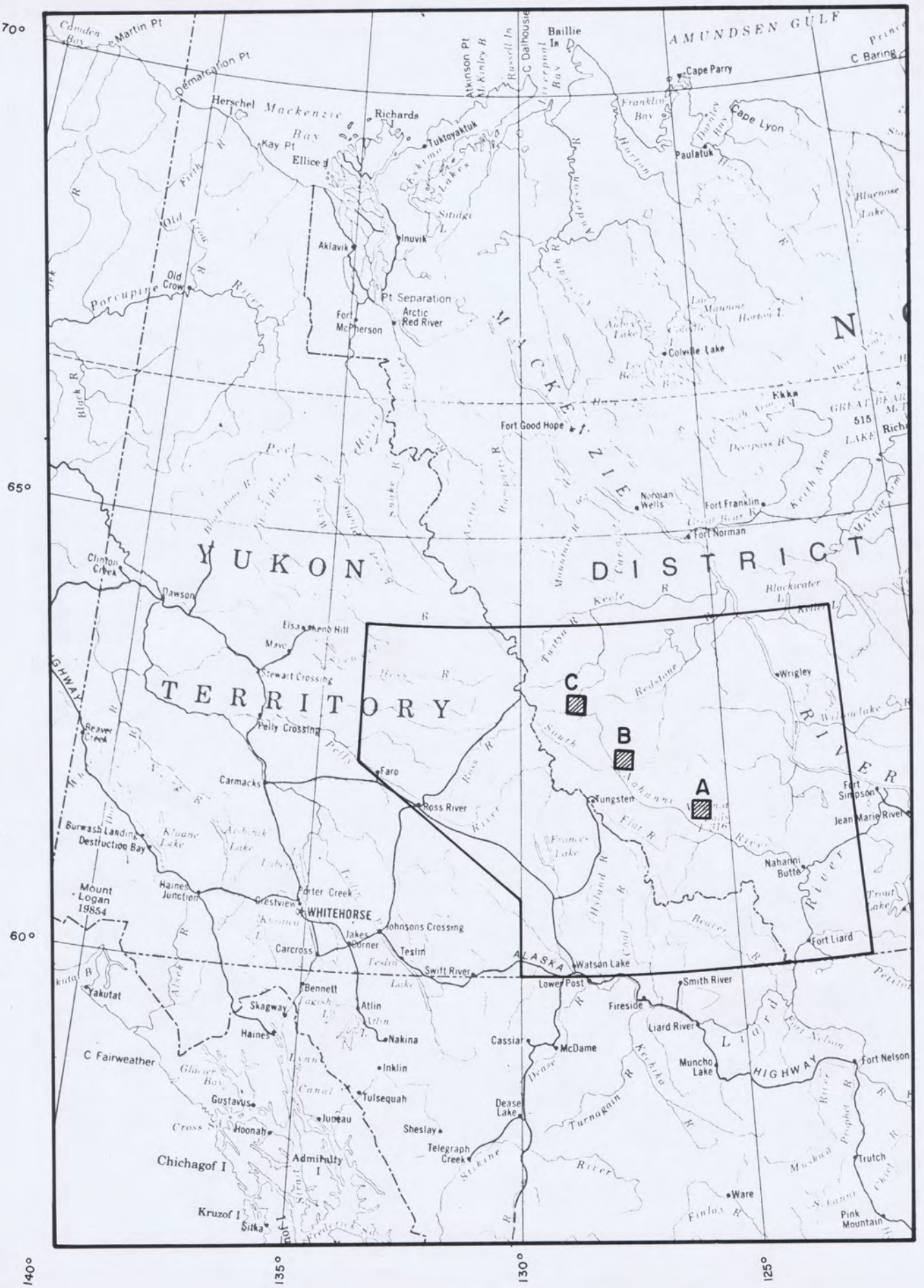


Figure I. Location Map

1" = 100 Miles

such as the Manetoe, Nahanni and Delorme Formations and the various intervening shale units as mapped in area B, which are not indicated as direct correlatives on the Survey publications. Although some geological mapping was carried out by the Ridgemont survey parties, in general there was little to add to the published data at least on the scale of mapping employed.

The units are relatively unmetamorphosal and display a typical brittle non-metamorphic deformation style, with monoclines and large box folds, thrusts and possibly large scale overfolds, although the latter are not proven. Shale units tend to act disharmoniously and are often tightly folded into box and chevron folds with occasional development of a weak axial plane but rarely slaty cleavage. Particular attention was paid to shale outs or transition zones from massive carbonates through argillaceous limestones to calcereous shales and argillites. Banded pyrite up to 10% and more was common along such shale outs, particularly in the Vera Creek section of area A and the Grizzly Bear Lake section of area B between the Nahanni Formation and overlying black shales.

SILT SAMPLING

Orientation Survey

Early in July orientation stream sediment samples were collected around known mineralization at the Cadillac deposition in the vicinity of Prairie Creek and from streams draining different rock units within areas A and C as shown on Figure 1. The purpose of the survey was to delineate the geo-chemical relief of the different units, in particular the black shale, as in other areas of Paleozoic bedrock these rocks have a high background, particularly in zinc, which has given rise to difficulties in interpretation. In addition, it was felt that the severe relief in this part of the Mackenzie Mountains might affect the size proportions most suitable for treatment, so that four different chemical attacks were used on four different mesh sizes to determine the most effective discrimination between mineralization and lithological variation.

The details and results of this survey are presented in a report by P. Bradshaw of Barringer Research Limited, which forms Appendix (ii) to this report. It was concluded that the rock samples show a considerable variation in metal content which is reflected by the stream sediments and that the majority of samples show no significant variation in metal content between the various mesh sizes tested. Of the extraction used, a hot 0.5N HCl extraction consistently gave the best contrast of anomaly to threshold. In the Prairie Creek area, lead, zinc, cadmium and copper were all anomalous with decreasing strength in that order, but the stream sediment dispersion train was generally short. It was recommended, therefore, that all streams sufficiently large to show on the 1:250,000 topographic maps and their tributaries should be sampled, except where the catchment area was greater than 100-150 square miles in which case dilution would be too high to reflect mineralization. In fact, nearly all streams greater than half a mile in length were sampled in the survey areas.

Methods and Procedures

All streams and tributaries were sampled at approx. 1,000 foot intervals with particular attention being given to tributaries and tributary junctions. Wherever possible, silt fraction material was taken and assigned to pre-numbered, Kraft wet-strength paper bags. Samples were partially air-dried and shipped to Whitehorse where they were further dried in an air oven at 70°C, sieved to <80 mesh on nylon screens and a two gram sample taken for further treatment. Three sample splits were then treated with 0.5N hydrochloric acid and the resultant solutions analysed for copper, lead and zinc using atomic adsorption techniques. Approximately 2600 silt samples were taken from area A and 1900 from area B. Rock samples of interest were taken from the various units, particularly heavily pyritized material from the shale out zones. These were used mainly for field identification and familiarization in the premilinary stages although a number of rock samples were taken for assay and further study at the time of staking in area B. Cold extraction tests for zinc were carried out in the field, using the diathiazone method on random splits from samples taken in areas of heavy pyritization or in the vicinity of noted rust and fluorite veining. The method proved cumbersome and time-consuming although it was indicative of high zinc values and was perhaps most useful as a morale booster to the collecting crews when positive results were obtained. All samplers were instructed to look out for rusty patches, pyrite and any mineralization or atypical rock formations. Occurrences of florite and pyrite were noted, visited and check sampled by a geologist. Results were plotted on prepared base maps at a scale of 1:50,000 with separate plots for location numbers, lead, zinc and copper results (Maps 3 - 10 in this report).

Results

Area A

Histograms were prepared for the total number of samples and applying the standard deviation techniques the following figures were obtained;-

	Cu	Pb	Zn
Background	0-20	0-10	0-60
Threshold	20	10	60
3rd order anomaly	20-40	10-20	60-120
2nd order anomaly	41-80	21-40	121-240
1st order anomaly	> 80	> 40	> 240

While copper and lead plotted as a single population curve, the graph for zinc showed a marked double maxima with a second population having a threshold around 100 ppm. From simple observation this can be attributed to the generally higher zinc background in shale and argillaceous horizons compared to that for carbonate formations. In order to bring out anomalies in both the shale and carbonate horizons, this was taken into consideration and the streams were colour coded on the following scale.

Cu	Pb	Zn
25-50	10-20	60-120
51-75	21-30	121-240
76-100	31-40	241-500
> 100	> 40	> 500

FIGURE 5

Histogram of Copper Silt Results

AREA A.



FIGURE 6

Histogram of Lead Silt Results

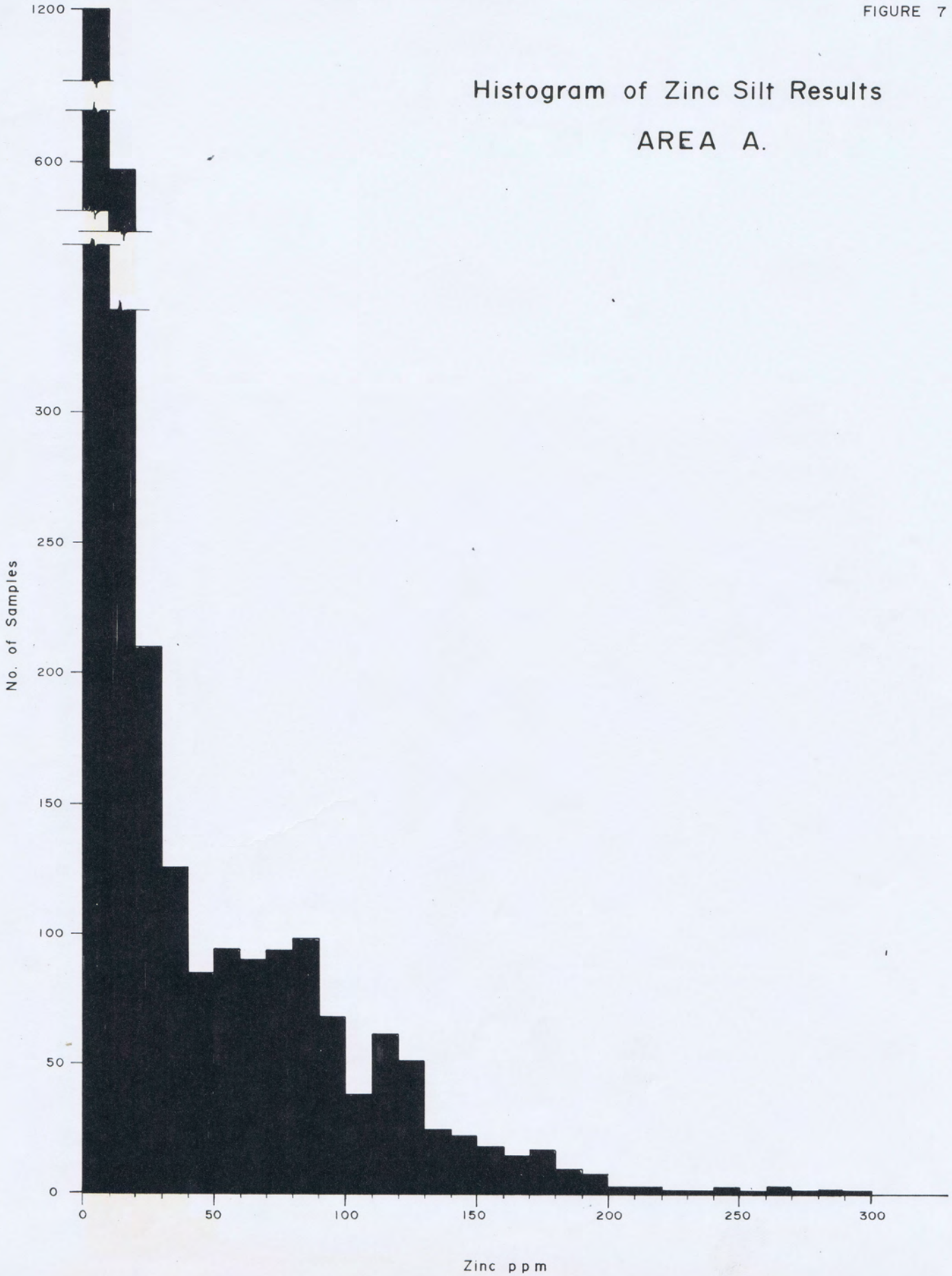
AREA A.



FIGURE 7

Histogram of Zinc Silt Results

AREA A.



Drawn by: C. L. C.

No very obvious widespread anomalies were observed in area A although a number of spot lead highs in the northeastern part of the survey area are apparent. A small scatter of pink vein calcite carrying rather spectacular interstitial galena gave rise to the single highest lead silt result, but detailed prospecting in the general vicinity did not reveal a bedrock source for this mineralization. An isolated multi-element anomaly resulting from a single sample on a short tributary in the south central part of the survey area was noted. Silts from streams draining the geologically interesting heavily pyritized shale-out zones proved only slightly higher in their base metal content than other country rocks and no significant anomalies were noted. Minor kicks in lead upstream of shale-out zones were often traced to small fluorite viens in massive dolomite near the contact of the Headless and Manetoe Formations.

Area B

Statistical treatment similar to that for area A was applied to the total results from area B with the following conclusions:-

	Cu	Pb	Zn
Background	0-25	0-10	0-60
Threshold	25	10	60
3rd order anomaly	25-50	10-20	60-120
2nd order anomaly	51 -100	21-40	121 - 240
1 st order anomaly	> 100	>40	> 240

Again, the zinc histogram clearly shows a double population not at all apparent from the copper and lead data. It is even more apparent that the various shale members have a much higher background in zinc than the carbonate members and that the Mississippian/ Devonian black shales forming the southern limb of the Grizzly Bear Lake Syncline are highly anomalous in zinc particularly at and just below their gradational and heavily pyritized contact with the Nahanni Formation. A less extensive anomaly occurs in the same stratigraphic section around a small anticline and dome just north of the Broken Skull River. Both lead and copper are slightly anomalous over the same areas, but to a much lesser degree than zinc.

Separate statistical treatment of zinc results from the two shale horizons and different locations of the younger shale formations were applied to determine the nature of the anomalies within the context of the generally higher background in these lithologies.

Road River = H

The histogram for the combined results of the older Ordovician/ Silurian shale formations and the Devonian-Mississippian pyrite shales is quite complex and shows three possible populations with thresholds at 40, 90 and 150 ppm zinc respectively. When broken down, the shales of different ages show clearly different chemical characteristics for zinc in that the older unit does not show the highest of the three thresholds and the 90 ppm break is much less pronounced. The Devonian-Mississippian shales retain a triple break point with those at 90 and 160 being quite pronounced. A further breakdown of results from the younger formation into the Grizzly Bear Lake syncline and the Broken Skull belt shows that the histogram for the latter area is similar to that for the older shales. Clearly the 160 break point is of maximum importance in the Grizzly Bear Lake area. It seems

Just about identical!

FIGURE 8

Histogram of Copper Silt Results

AREA B.

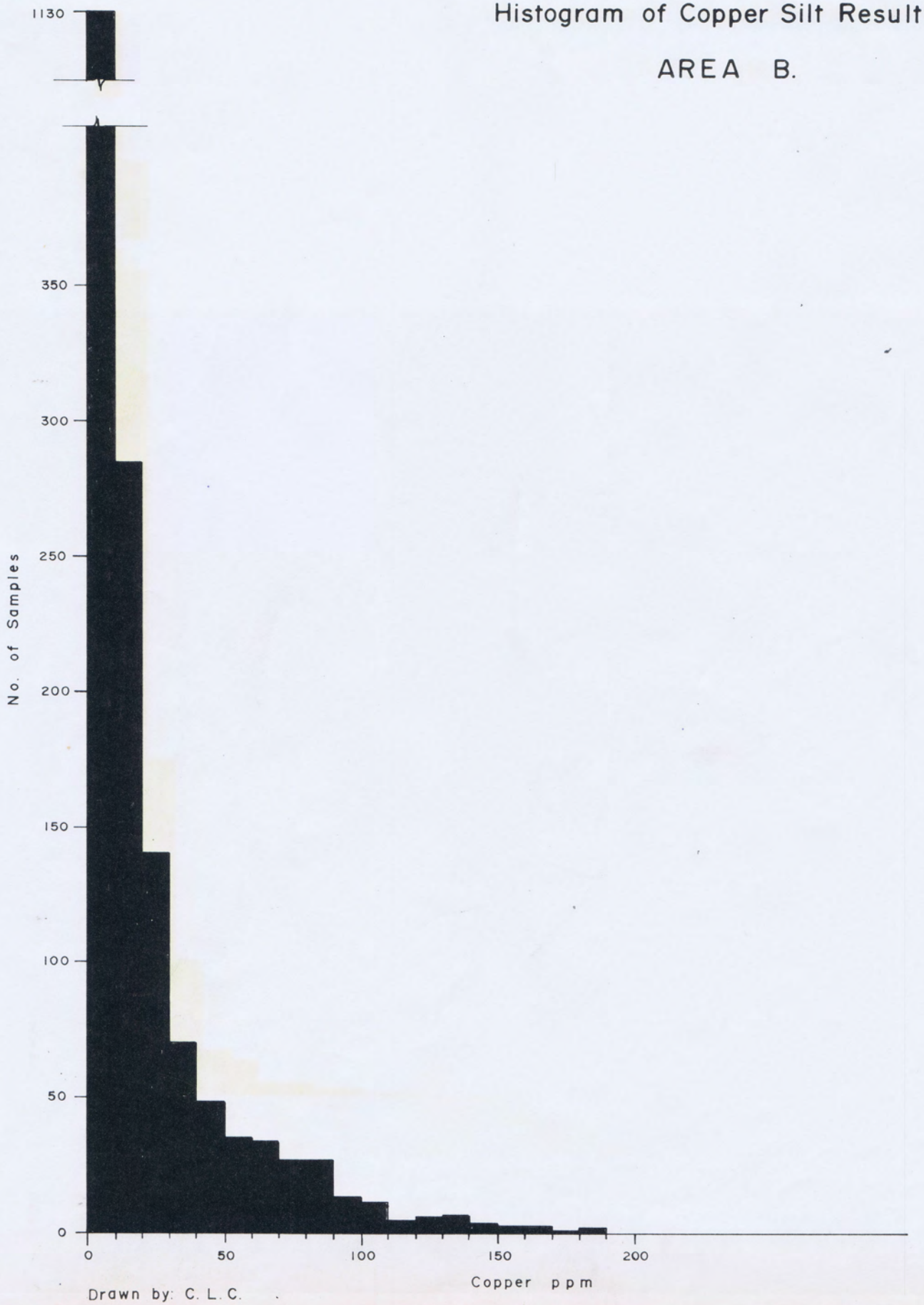
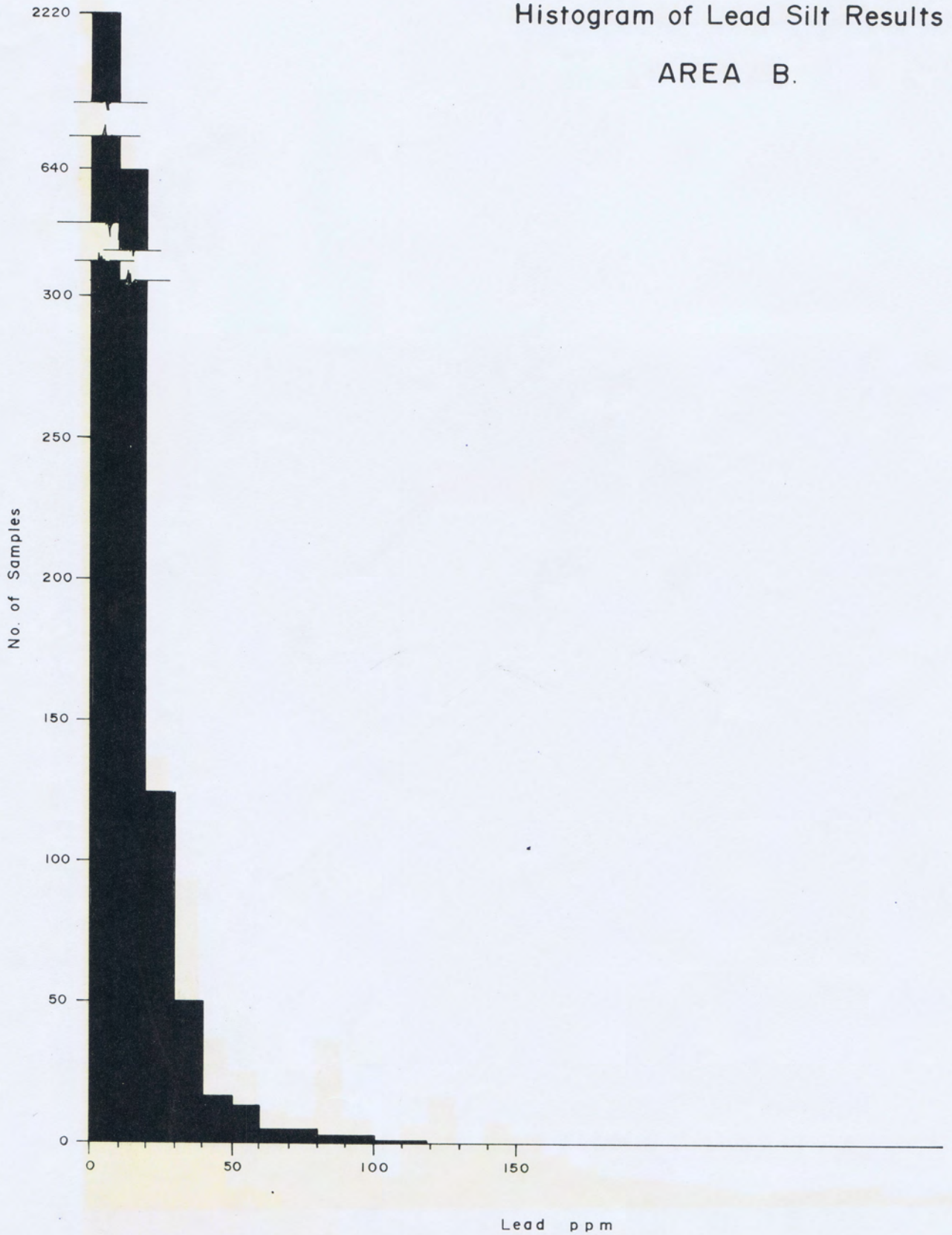


FIGURE 9

Histogram of Lead Silt Results

AREA B.

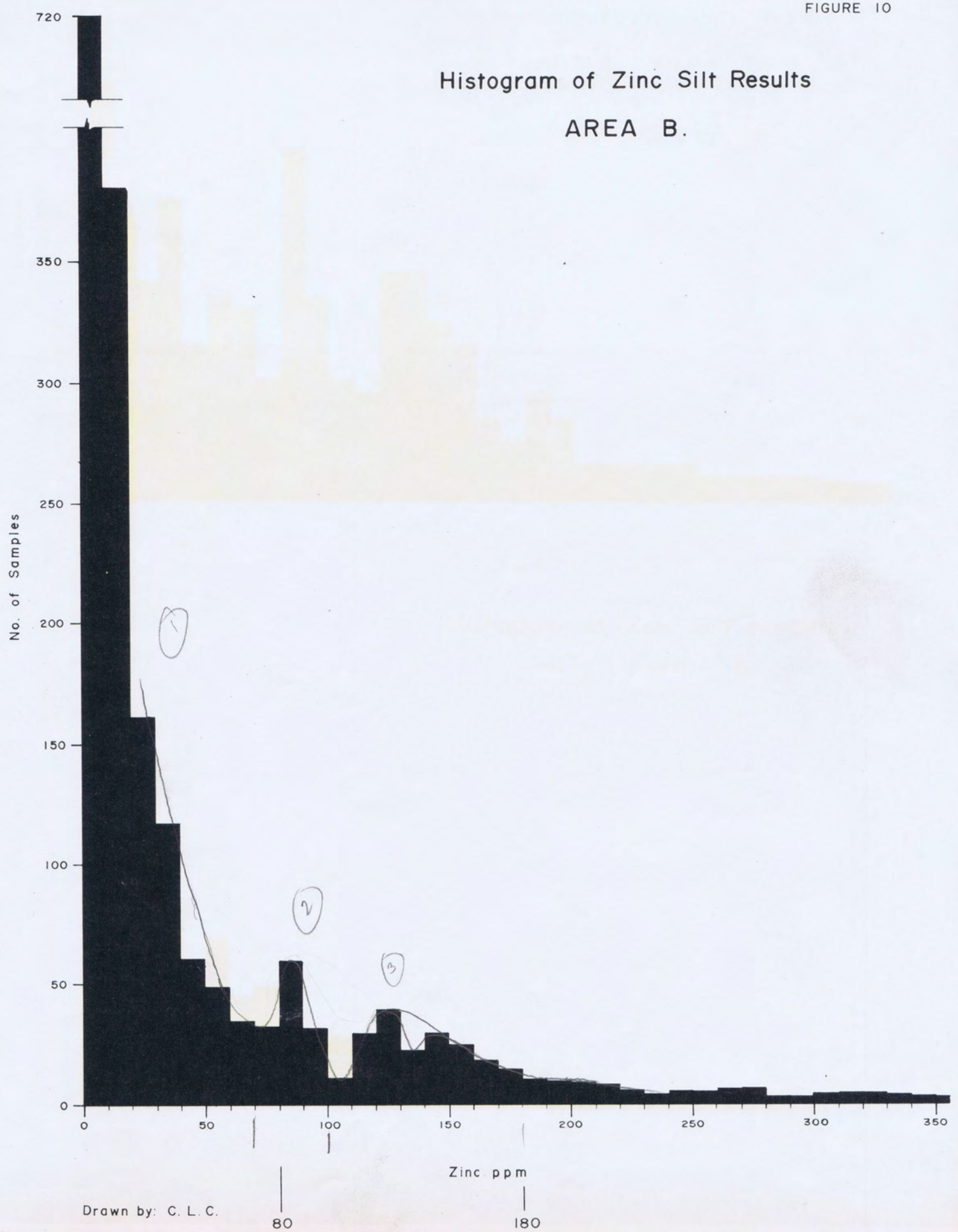


Drawn by: C. L. C.

FIGURE 10

Histogram of Zinc Silt Results

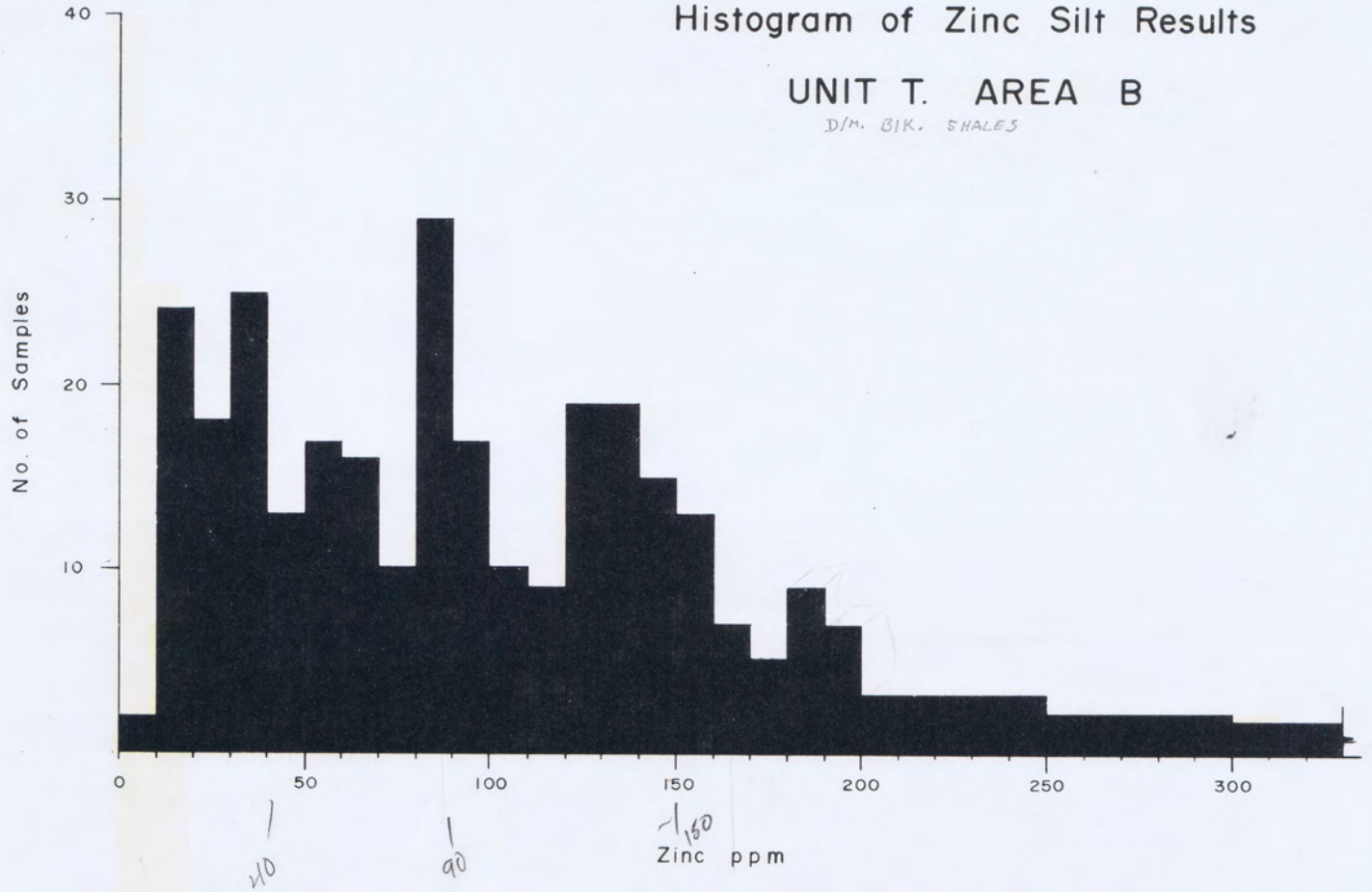
AREA B.



Histogram of Zinc Silt Results

UNIT T. AREA B

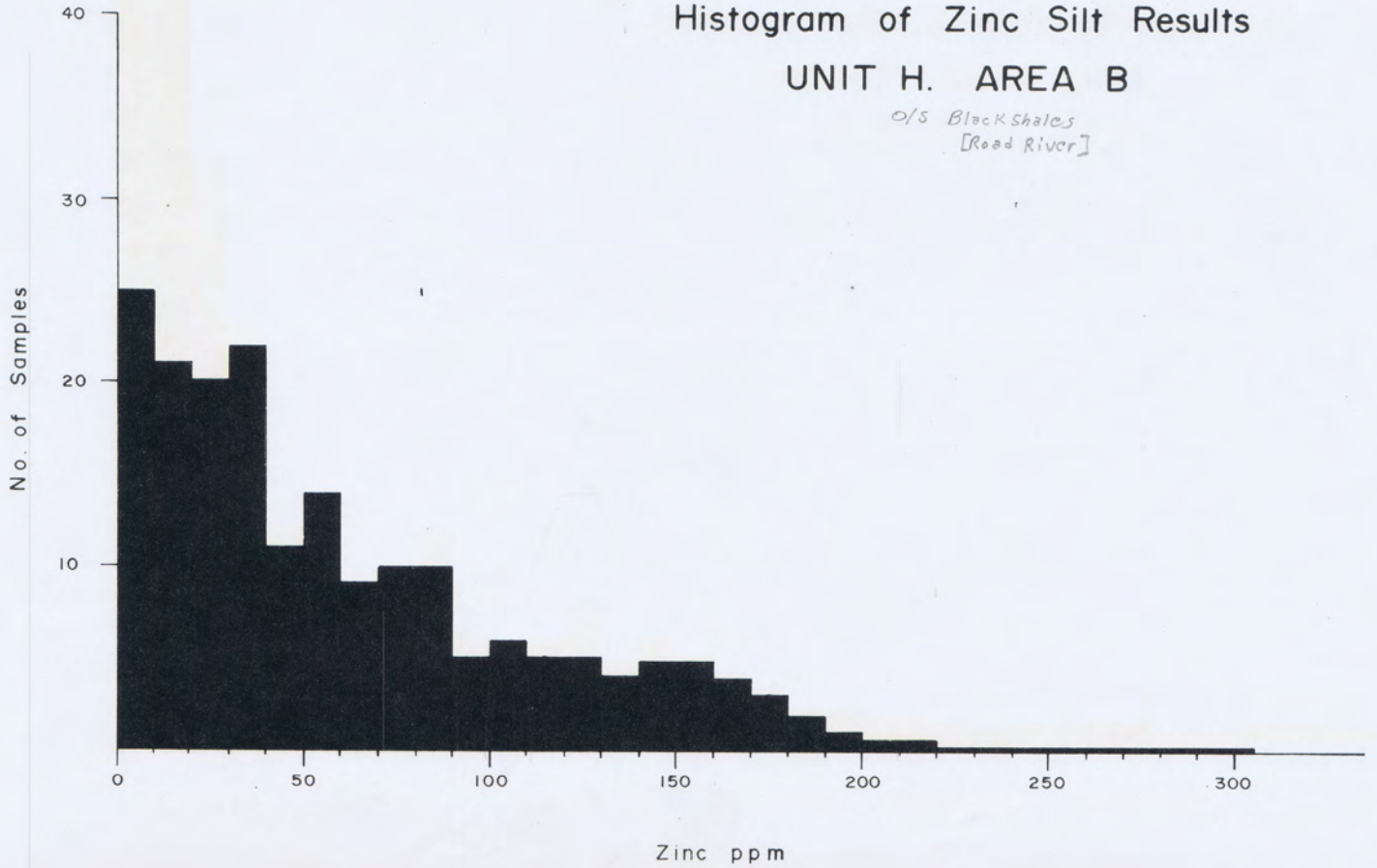
D/M. BIK. SHALES



Histogram of Zinc Silt Results

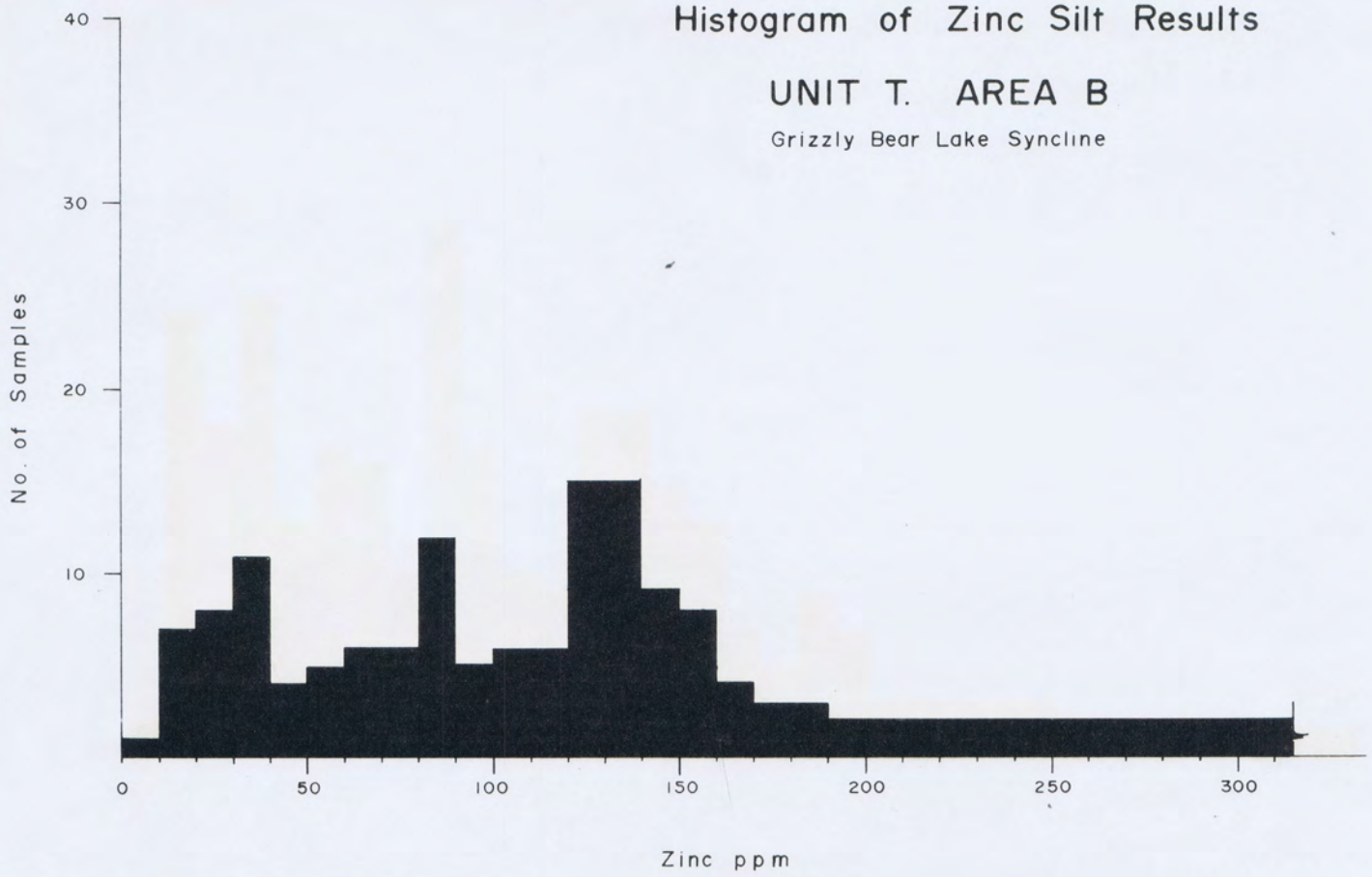
UNIT H. AREA B

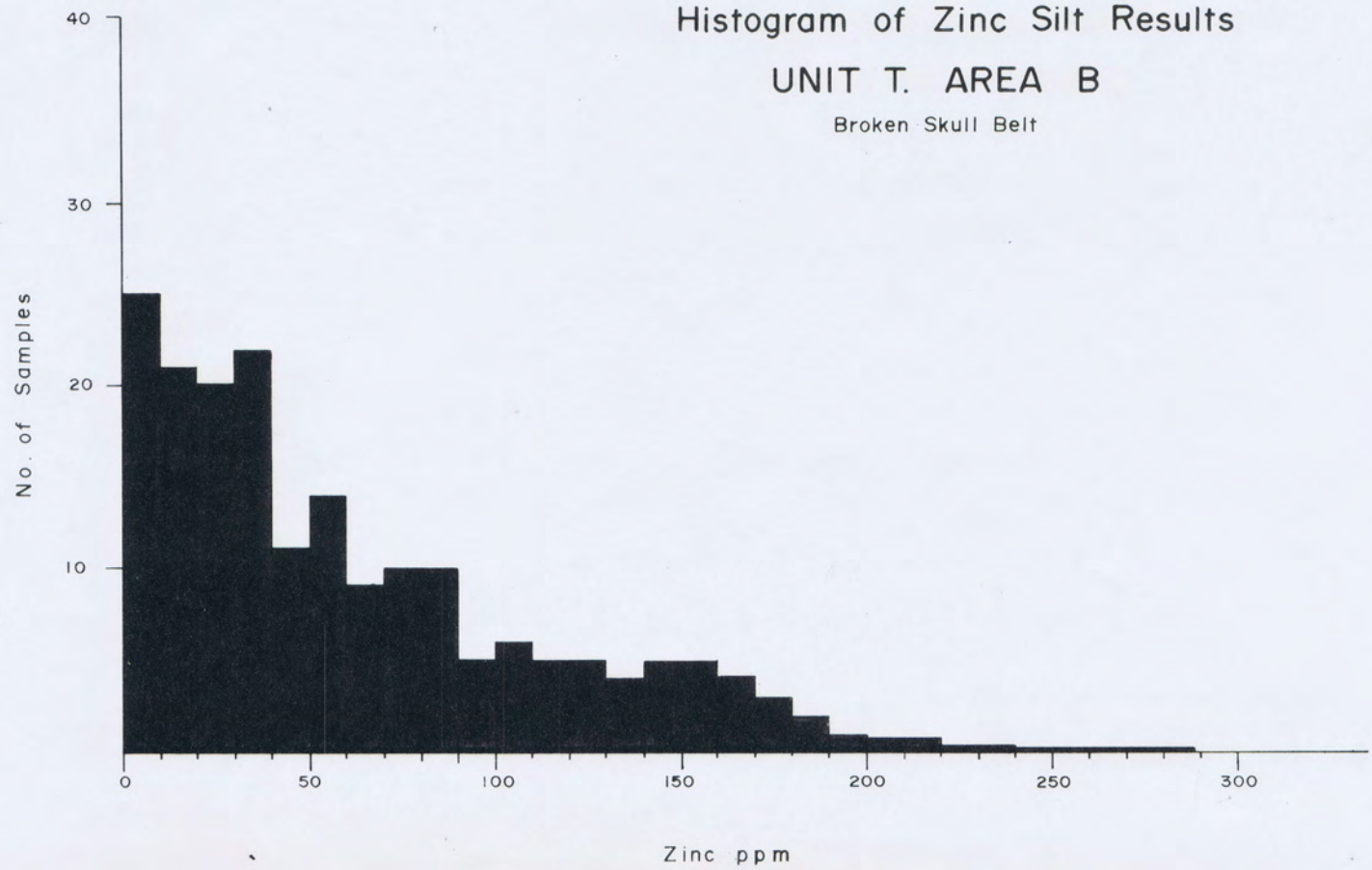
O/S Black Shales
[Road River]



Drawn by: C. L. C.

FIGURE 12





Drawn by: C. L. C.

FIGURE 14

reasonable to assume that the 40 and 90 ppm Zn thresholds indicate lithological variations within the younger shale unit but that the 160 point is representative of a much higher than average zinc content even considering the overall high background in the shale facies, and that values in excess of 800 ppm Zn and up to 2,000 ppm may well be indicative of mineralization.

STAKING PROGRAMME

As a result of the highly anomalous values in zinc obtained in both the Grizzly Bear Lake and Broken Skull areas, a program of follow-up sampling and staking was instigated in area "B" of the Selwyn Project from Sept. 5-16. The sampling verified and extended stream silt anomalies in the Grizzly Bear Lake area, where a pyritiferous gradational contact from limestone through calcereous shales to black shales appears to be the cut-off in anomalous values. Heavy rust and stain was noted at various points along the contact zone and although no sphaleriate or other base metals were noted, a number of pyrite-rich rock samples assayed up to 7,000 ppm Zn.

A total of 235 claims (seeMap 11) comprizing FKH 1-126 and ESK 1-109 were staked to cover the Grizzly Bear Lake anomaly and possible downdip extensions, and 116 claims, namely JBH 1-58 and MEB 1-58, were laid out to cover the Broken Skull River anomalies. The claims were filed by the contractor, Messrs. White, Hosford and Impey Ltd. of Whitehorse to be transferred to Ridgemont or other assigned vehicle. There is some discrepancy between the sketches for the Grizzly Bear Lake claims and the overall plot of claim groups when transferred to the 1:50,000 sheet which is a redrawn blow-up of the 1:250,000 map. As the east and west ends of the claim groups are firmly tied into topography and all claims are contiguous and tied into each other by the four post staking system employed in the Northwest Territories, it can only be assumed that the 1:50,000 map, which is of necessity an approximation, is in error. This can only be checked out on the ground and little point would be gained by adjusting claim locations to topography on an arbitrary basis. Claim sketches for the various claim groups are included in this report as Figures 2 to 4.

CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

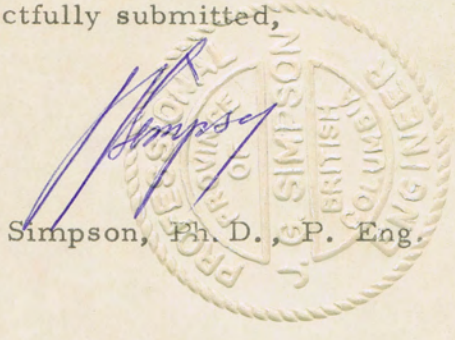
The object of the exercise was achieved in that investigation of the selected areas by silt sampling indicated strongly anomalous values in area "B" that might well be indicative of sulphide mineralization. That these occur in a black shale environment is a negative factor as is the linearity of the anomaly in the Grizzly Bear Lake area. However, the values obtained are highly anomalous even within this context, and the presence of excessive amounts of sulphide in the form of pyrite is indicative of a metal-rich, reducing environment at the time of deposition. The Canex Placer find, in a similar stratigraphic position in the Summit Lake area to the northwest, and the evidence of intense competition in the area of study appear to be ample justification for the staking carried out.

While nothing of obvious interest arose from the work in area

"A", it should be noted that in a similar survey the Cadillac deposit would only be indicated by a few specific highs and those in Area A might be worth at least further prospecting and detailed silt sampling.

The silt anomalies in area B should be followed up by detailed mapping, silt, soil and rock chip sampling, trenching and assaying to ascertain the cause of the anomalies and areas of maximum interest within the claim blocks. Although field costs are high, mainly due to the remoteness and difficulty of access of the area, it is suggested that the Selwyn Basin forms a major metallogenic province that has, as yet, been barely touched and that surveys of the type undertaken will only be of maximum value if carried out on a continuing basis.

Respectfully submitted,



J. G. Simpson, Ph. D., P. Eng.

APPENDIX III

COST SUMMARY

APPENDIX III

COST SUMMARY

	Field Work Area A	Field Work Area B	Staking Area B	Total Project
Acquisition (inc. contract staking)	-	-	32,070	32,070
Salaries & Wages	5,321	4,079	2,000	11,400
Surveying & Mapping	1,200	1,200	140	2,540
Geochemistry (analyses)	7,991	4,181	-	12,172
Outside Contract Services	2,058	2,038	200	4,296
Assaying	-	20	-	20
Travel	2,550	1,950	698	5,198
Air Charter	20,528	15,931	6,936	43,395
Equipment	500	495	-	995
Miscellaneous	100	95	-	195
TOTALS *	$ 40,248	$ 29,989	$ 42,044	$ 112,281

* Figures to December 31, 1973 do not include Head Office overheads or costs incurred in drafting and preparation of reports for January-February 1974. Estimated total expenditure - $ 114,000.

GRIZZLY BEAR LAKE

ESK 1-109

FKH 1-126

MEB 1-58

JBH 1-58

BROKEN

SKULL

SOUTH NAHANNI RIVER

RIVER

CAMP

8217

8990

8202

7831

7122

7426

RIDGEMONT MINING CORPORATION

SELWYN PROJECT
AREA "B"

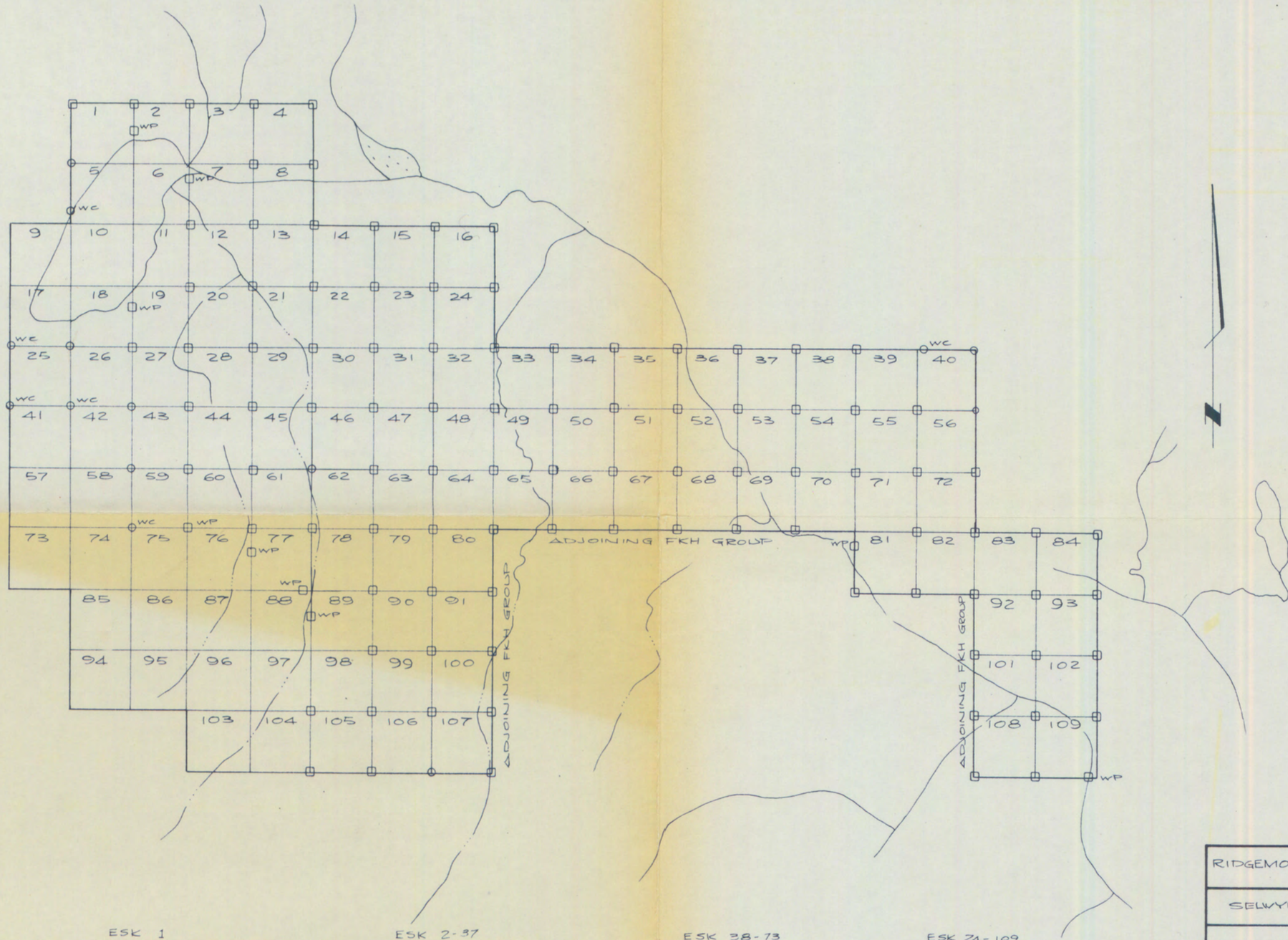
CLAIMS

SCALE : 1:50,000
(1.25 INCHES TO 1 MILE APPROX.)

N.T.S. SHEET 95L

DATE: SEPT, 1973

MAP II



LEGEND:
Post □
Cairn ○

ESK 1
STAKER: J. Jackson
LICENSE Nº 2422
DATE: Sept. 14, '73
TAGS: A56291

ESK 2-37
STAKER: B. Shorty
LICENSE Nº 2330
DATE: Sept. 14, 15, '73
TAGS: A56292 - A56327

ESK 38-73
STAKER: P. Renouf
LICENSE Nº 2363
DATE: Sept. 14, 15, '73
TAGS: A56328 - A56355
A55091 - A55096
A56362 - A56363

ESK 74-109
STAKER: E. Dickinson
LICENSE Nº 2360
DATE: Sept. 14, 15, '73
TAGS: A56364 - A56370
A55097 - A55100
A56374 - A56381
A56383 - A56387; A56288 - A56290
A55027 - A55029; A56359 - A56361
A56371 - A56372; A56358 ESK 102

RIDGEMONT MINING CORPORATION

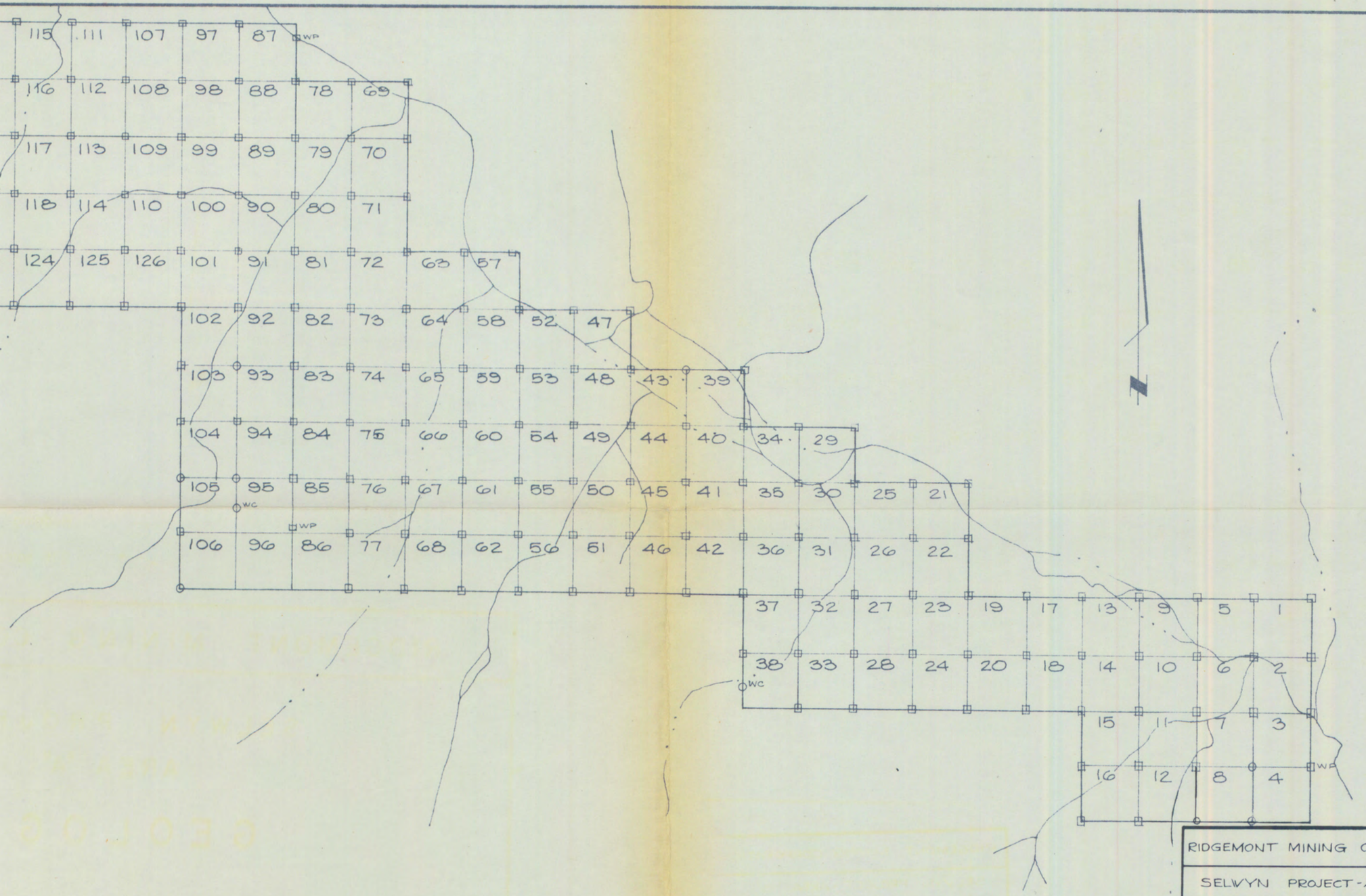
SELWYN PROJECT - AREA 'B'

STAKING SKETCH SHOWING
ESK 1-109 MINERAL CLAIMS

SEPT. 1973

1" = ½ MILE

FIG. 3



LEGEND:

Post □

Cairn ○

FKH 1-36
STAKER: A Eskrick
LICENSE Nº: 2419
DATE: Sept 7,8,'73
TAGS: A54901-A54936

FKH 37-72
STAKER: M Barker
LICENSE Nº: 2285
DATE: Sept 7,8,'73
TAGS: A54937-A54972

FKH 73-106
STAKER: J Kodwat
LICENSE Nº: 2420
DATE: Sept 8,9,'73
TAGS: A54973-A55006

FKH 107-126
STAKER: J Jackson
LICENSE Nº 2422
DATE: Sept 9,'73
TAGS: A55007-A55026

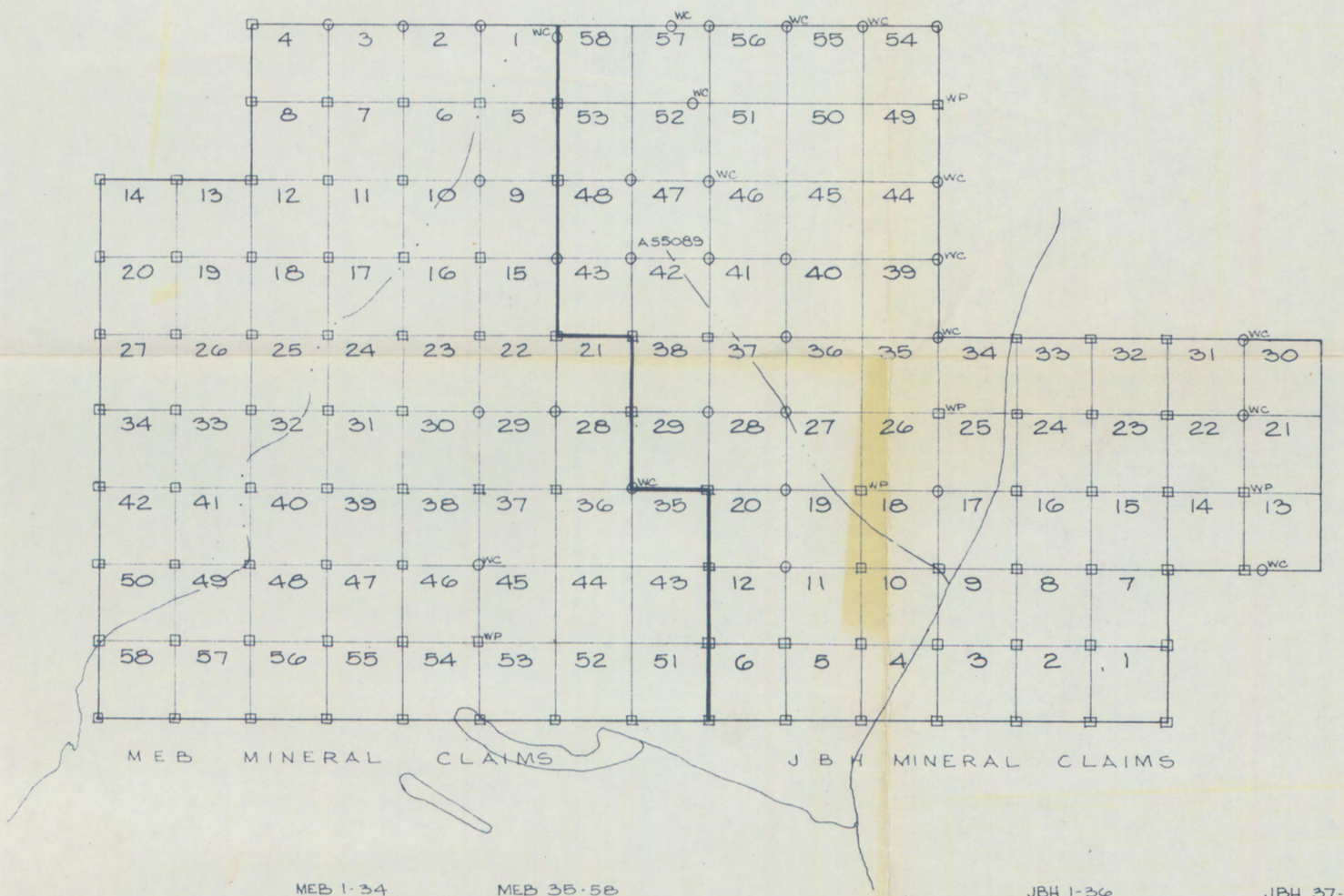
RIDGEMONT MINING CORPORATION

SELWYN PROJECT - AREA 'B'

STAKING SKETCH SHOWING
FKH 1-126 MINERAL CLAIMS

SEPT. 1973 1" = ½ MILE

FIG. 2



LEGEND

Post □

Cairn ○

MEB 1-34
STAKER: J. Kodwat
LICENSE Nº: 2420
DATE: Sept 15&16/73
TAGS: A76751-A76784

MEB 35-58
STAKER: J. Jackson
LICENSE Nº: 2422
DATE: Sept 15&16/73
TAGS: A76785-A76800, A75881-A75888

JBH 1-36
STAKER: A. Eskrick
LICENSE Nº: 2419
DATE: Sept 12&13/73
TAGS: A55031 - A55066

JBH 37-58
STAKER: M. Barker
LICENSE Nº 2285
DATE: Sept. 11&12
TAGS: A55067-A55076, A55078-A55088, A55089-47

RIDGEMONT MINING CORPORATION

SELWYN PROJECT - AREA 'B'

STAKING SKETCH SHOWING
JBH 1-58 MINERAL CLAIMS
MEB 1-58 MINERAL CLAIMS

SEPT. 1973

1" = ½ MILE

FIG. 4

62°00'

125°00'

CATHEDRAL CREEK

WRIGLEY CREEK

VERA CREEK

CLEARWATER CREEK

PRAIRIE CREEK

EXPLANATION

PLEISTOCENE AND RECENT

U — Unconsolidated glacial and alluvial deposits.

DEVONIAN AND ? MISSISSIPIAN

T — Black shale locally pyritic, minor beds of black limestone.

MIDDLE DEVONIAN

S — NAHANNI FORMATION: fine to medium-grained light grey weathered limestone. (minor shale and dolomite in area A)

R — HEADLESS FORMATION: calcareous shale and argillaceous limestone.

Q — Shale partly equivalent to shales and limestones of unit R above.

P — MANETOE FORMATION: dolomite coarse grained, recrystallised. (some massive limestone in area B)

O — Argillaceous limestone and calcareous shale, area A only, partly equivalent to units N and P.

N — ARNICA FORMATION: dolomite fine-grained, dark grey, banded.

LOWER DEVONIAN

M — SOMBRE FORMATION: light and medium grained dolomite.

L — SOMBRE FORMATION: dark grey to black banded dolomite

SILURIAN AND DEVONIAN

K — Shale and calcareous argillite (not present in area B)

J — DELORME FORMATION: buff, grey, cinnamon weathering dolomite and limestone

ORDOVICIAN AND SILURIAN

I — WHITTAKER FORMATION: dark grey dolomite, light grey limestone.

H — Black pyritic shale, graptolitic, with thin black limestone bands.

ORDOVICIAN

G — Includes SUNBLOOD FORMATION: limestone, cryptograined, orange and pink weathering, dark and light grey dolomite. G¹ Buff, cream, grey dolomite and limestone.

Geological contact

Geological contact inferred

Fault

40 Bedding strike and dip

Silt sample location site

N

RIDGEMONT MINING CORPORATION

SELWYN PROJECT
AREA "A"

GEOLOGY

AFTER G.S.C. MAP 22-1960

J.G. Simpson

SCALE: 1:50,000 (1.25 INCHES TO 1 MILE APPROX.)

N.T.S. SHEET 95 L

DATE: SEPT. 1973

MAP 1

GRIZZLY BEAR LAKE

BROKEN

SKULL

SOUTH

NAHANNI

RIVER

RIVER

CAMP

8057 8217 8202 8900

EXPLANATION

PLEISTOCENE AND RECENT

U — Unconsolidated glacial and alluvial deposits.

DEVONIAN AND? MISSISSIPIAN

T — Black shale locally pyritic, minor beds of black limestone.

MIDDLE DEVONIAN

S — NAHANNI FORMATION: fine to medium - grained light grey weathered limestone. (minor shale and dolomite in area A)

R — HEADLESS FORMATION: calcareous shale and argillaceous limestone.

Q — Shale partly equivalent to shales and limestones of unit R above.

P — MANETOE FORMATION: dolomite coarse grained, recrystallised. (some massive limestone in area B)

O — Argillaceous limestone and calcareous shale, area A only, partly equivalent to units N and P.

N — ARNICA FORMATION: dolomite fine - grained, dark grey, banded.

LOWER DEVONIAN

M — SOMBRE FORMATION: light and medium grained dolomite.

L — SOMBRE FORMATION: dark grey to black banded dolomite.

SILURIAN AND DEVONIAN

K — Shale and calcareous argillite. (not present in area B)

J — DELORME FORMATION: buff, grey, cinnamon weathering dolomite and limestone.

ORDOVICIAN AND SILURIAN

I — WHITTAKER FORMATION: dark grey dolomite, light grey limestone.

H — Black pyritic shale, graptolitic, with thin black limestone bands.

ORDOVICIAN

G — Includes SUNBLOOD FORMATION: limestone, cryptograined, orange and pink weathering, dark and light grey dolomite.
G' Buff, cream, grey dolomite and limestone.

CAMBRIAN AND ORDOVICIAN

F — Orange weathering grey limestone and minor siltstone.

MIDDLE AND UPPER CAMBRIAN

E — Buff and orange weathering, dolomitic siltstone, silty dolomite, stromatolitic dolomite and calcareous sandstone. E' Shaley carbonates.

CAMBRIAN OR EARLIER

D — D white, pink and purple quartzite and sandstone, slate calcareous sandstone, minor pebble conglomerate.
D' crypto grained pink banded dolomite and limestone.
D² interbedded quartzite, siltstone and argillite.

C — Dark grey shale and siltstone.

B — Orange weathering dolomitic sandstone.

A — Mudstone, green and buff - brown siltstone, conglomerate.

Geological contact

Geological contact inferred

Fault

40 Bedding strike and dip

Silt sample location site

RIDGEMONT MINING CORPORATION

SELWYN PROJECT
AREA "B"

GEOLOGY

AFTER G.S.C. MAP 36-1964

J.G. Simpson

SCALE: 1:50,000 (1.25 INCHES TO 1 MILE APPROX.)

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MAP 2