

Kelly Mine Update

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Mr. Blue Sheppard of Millenium Inc. is the current owner of the Kelly Mine; he bought the mine from **Mr. Tony Otero** in the early 1990's. Recently his website www.mmmgems.com was hacked and current information on visiting the Kelly Mine could only be obtained by calling the California number 760-742-1356



(on weekends) or driving to Magdalena, NM and visiting **Tony's Rock Shop** on Kelly Road (left). After contacting Mr. Sheppard, Tony's Rock Shop and visiting the site here is the current visitor information for Kelly:

Mrs. Zamora (left, below) is the owner of Tony's Rock Shop (Tony Otero's sister), and may be reached at 575-854-2401 during normal business hours, seven days a week, but she usually volunteers at the **Magdalena Senior Center** from 8 AM to 2 PM. She will be at the rock shop if you call ahead, and most times we visited on the weekends she was already at the shop. The site is open from sunup to sunset but Mrs. Zamora usually likes visitors to leave the mine site and check back in with her by 4 PM. Passes are \$10 per person, and the first 10 lbs. of rocks collected per person are free. Her family has long ties to the town of Kelly and the mine, so visiting her shop is well worth it. If you cannot reach Tony's Rock Shop, the **Western Motel** on First Street (Magdalena, NM) can also issue passes to the site.



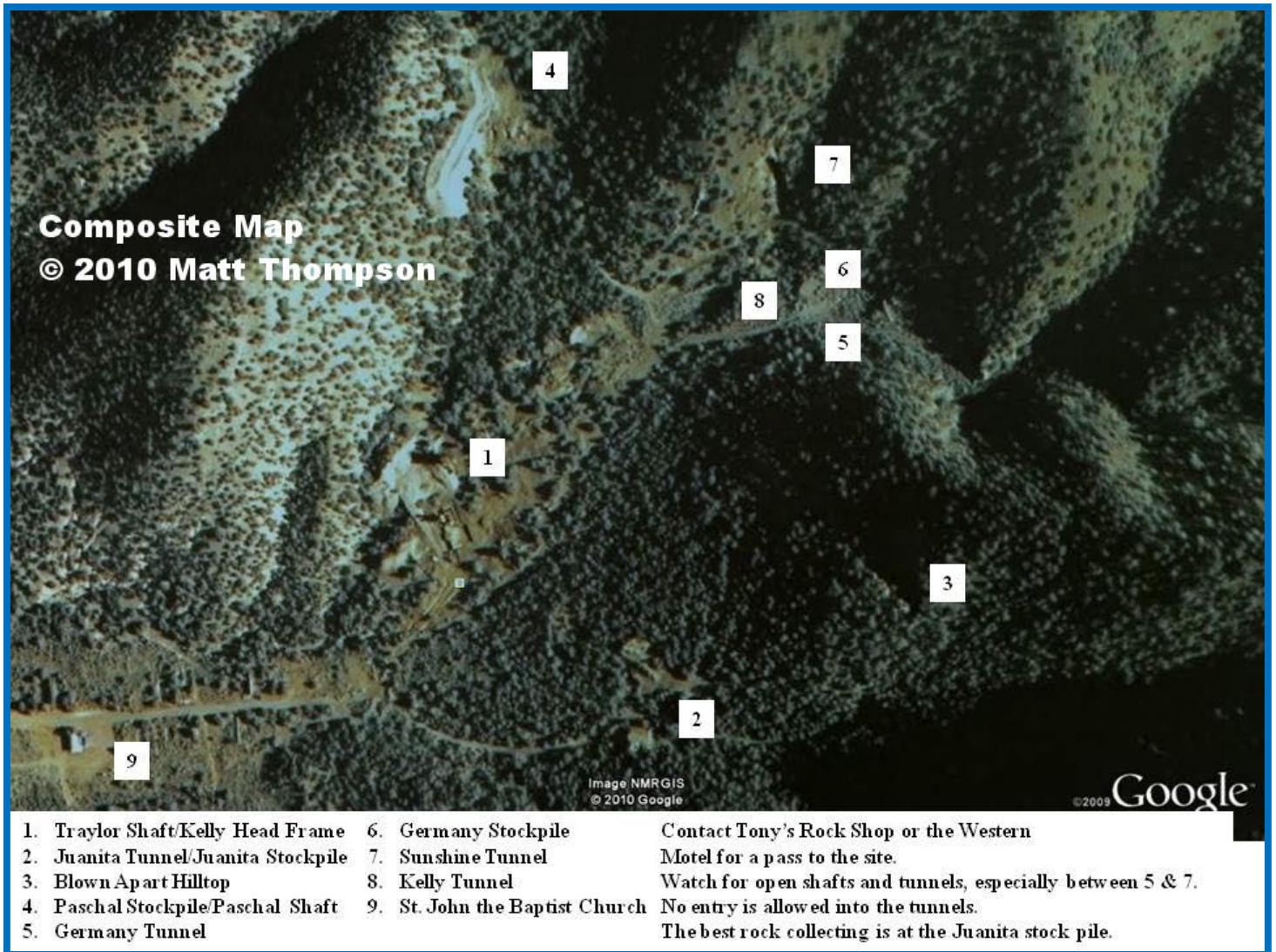
The gravel road to the old Kelly town site and mine has some wash outs (mid-2010) but should be passable to any 2WD truck or SUV with decent ground clearance. Parking is still in front of the sign by the turquoise gate. The gate is permanently locked; a 3-foot deep gully has cut across the road. A 4WD vehicle could get in but the site is off limits to vehicles without special permission.

While looking into the Kelly Mine we also met the owner of the **Nitt and Graphic Mines, Mrs. Dobson**. She runs **Bill's Rock Shop** (right) on Pine Street (Magdalena, NM; located in her back yard), and for \$5 per person she will issue the map to her mines, keys to the gates and the first 25 lbs. of collected rock is free. Bill's Rock Shop is open from 8 AM to 5 PM, Monday through Saturday, but calling ahead is always a good idea. Bill's Rock Shop number is 575-854-2236 during normal business hours.

NITT & GRAPHIC MINES - PHOTOGRAPHY RESTRICTED: Photos (and mine map) may not be published, posted on the Internet, or generally circulated. Strictly enforced!



After walking much of the site, here is a map (below) to complement the www.mmmgems.com sketch. Some pyrite was found between the Traylor shaft and the Kelly tunnel, but more pyrite was found up the hill near the Paschal shaft and stockpile. The Juanita stockpile yielded the best rocks during our visits to the site. As with the Kelly Mine, you will be required to sign a liability waiver, and no children under 14 years of age are permitted at the mines. At all of the mine sites we visited we found open shafts, usually fenced but an extreme hazard to children or dogs off leash. Use great care when visiting any of the sites, and both owners repeated, **“You enter at your own risk”**. They also emphasized that **“shaft, tunnel and underground entry is forbidden”**. This last advice is clear and must be followed ... violations, if discovered or detected, will most certainly restrict access for future visitors. NOTE: A larger and more detailed view of map at end of copy.



The trail up to the Nitt and Graphic mines is off of the road to Kelly and the turn off and gate to the mines is difficult to see; if you pass a red gate on the left that is the **Waldo Mine** and you have gone too far. The Waldo Mine is run by **ASARCO** of Tucson, Arizona and their site is patrolled and trespassing is not tolerated.

Beyond the first gate is a creek bed; this is rough going after a heavy rain but it should be passable for a 2WD pick up or SUV with good ground clearance to drive through. The remaining trail up to the Nitt is steep and rocky, but passable. The Nitt is a small and well preserved mine operation and the tailings are littered with a huge amount of pyrite.

Further up from the Nitt is the **Graphic Mine**; the road is narrow and only passable with a 4WD. It is about a ½ mile hike up hill from the Nitt and the actual tunnel is on the side of the steep road. The tunnel is sealed with

a steel door; we must have passed it without seeing it during our visit. Just above the Graphic tunnel is a no name tunnel that is collapsed and only 20 yards deep. The large tailing piles are a treasure trove for rock hounds and collectors, plan on spending a lot of time digging in the tailings.

Be advised: the situation with Kelly, Graphic or Nitt Mines accessibility may change. Before embarking on a site visitation, call ahead to either Tony's Rock Shop or Bill's Rock Shop for status, conditions, fees, or general information.

When visiting the area and the mines consider stopping in **Socorro** at the **Mineralogical Museum on the New Mexico Tech Campus**. Museum is open 8 AM to 5 PM, Monday through Friday ... from 10 AM to 3 PM, Saturday and Sunday. They have excellent specimen exhibits and they possess a wealth of knowledge about mining in New Mexico. Visit their website at <http://geoinfo.nmt.edu/museum/> for more information.

A Kelly Mine Reminder:

"Enter at your own risk" and "Tunnel, shaft or underground entry is forbidden"

GALLERY



Western Motel, Magdalena, NM



Smithsonite Tony's Rock Shop



More Smithsonite at Tony's Rock Shop



The turn onto Kelly towards Tony's Rock Shop and the mine



Kelly cemetery



◀ Kelly Mine entrance



▲ Germany Mine entrance



◀ Juanita Mine entrance



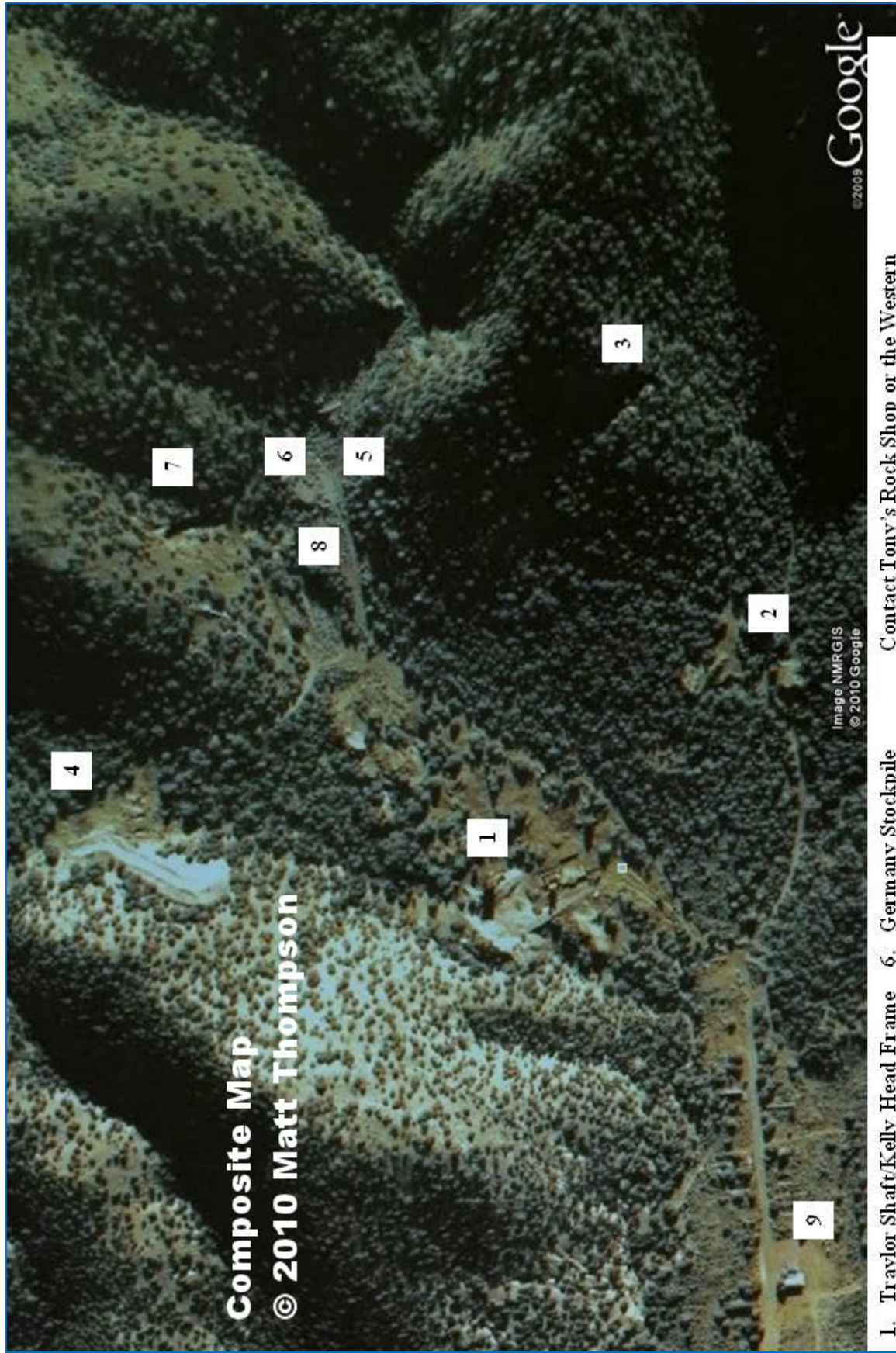
Paschal Stockpile and Head Frame



Sunshine Tunnel Stockpile 3



Waldo mine - no trespassing



Composite Map
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Google
 © 2009

Image NMRGIS
 © 2010 Google

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|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. Traylor Shaft/Kelly Head Frame | 6. German Stockpile | Contact Tony's Rock Shop or the Western Motel for a pass to the site. |
| 2. Juanita Tunnel/Juanita Stockpile | 7. Sunshine Tunnel | Watch for open shafts and tunnels, especially between 5 & 7. |
| 3. Blown Apart Hilltop | 8. Kelly Tunnel | No entry is allowed into the tunnels. |
| 4. Paschal Stockpile/Paschal Shaft | 9. St. John the Baptist Church | The best rock collecting is at the Juanita stock pile. |
| 5. German Tunnel | | |