

## MEMORANDUM

THE CONTINENTAL INSURANCE COMPANIES

TO Mr ALBERT SANDECKI CLAIM # 98-18042  
FROM Mr D.S. TREADWELL, RES. ADJ. DATE 5/1/67  
SUBJECT CALLAHAN MINEING CORP. - ALBERT SANDECKI

As you requested I am sending you a copy of the appraisal on your summer cottage made by A. B. HERRICK & SON of Blue Hill.

I understand from Mr Herrick that you gave him the O.K. to start on repairs.

On your next trip to Maine and your cottage if you would drop me a line and let me know when you plan to be there, I will make arrangements to meet with you.

Very truly yours,

D.S. Treadwell, Res. Adj.

# Ellsworth American

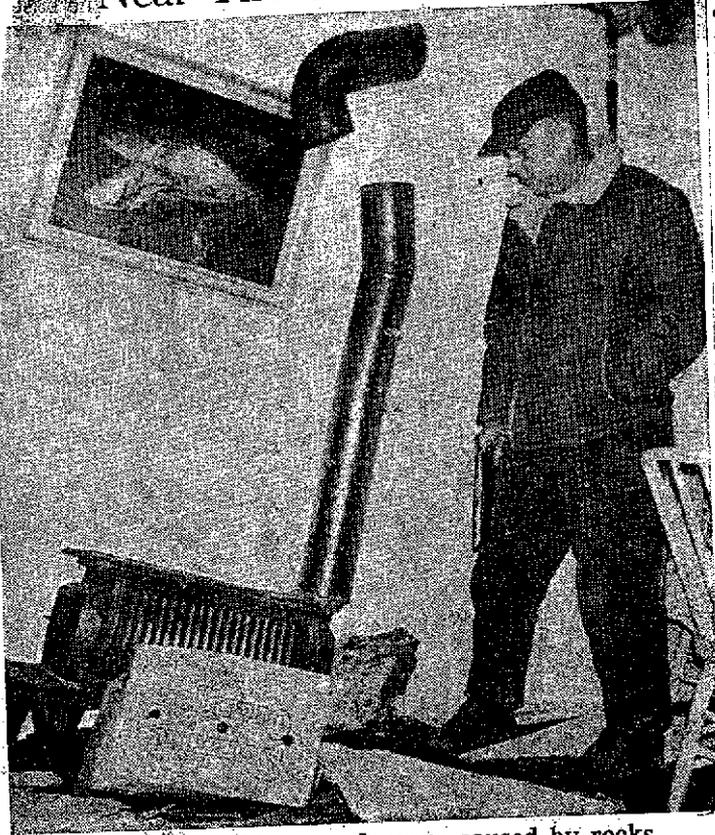
ELLSWORTH, MAINE 04805 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 1967

Entered as 2nd Class Matter At  
Ellsworth Post Office

WED MAY 17, 1967

50 Tanner Street  
Haddonfield, New Jersey  
April 28, 1967

## Boulder Crashes Through Roof Near The Callahan Mine



Albert Sandecki views damage caused by rocks.

Albert Sandecki, a new Jersey artist with a summer home at Harborside on Cape Rosier, has always loved Maine's rocky coast, but when rocks begin to fly through the air he gets upset. He got upset last week when a neighbor telephoned him that a boulder had crashed through the roof of his cottage. His cottage is 400 yards from where Callahan Mining Corp. is blasting the slopes of what used to be Goose Pond. The mine's property abuts his back yard.

Mr. Sandecki, an artist whose work is owned by outstanding collectors like Joseph Hirschorn, Chairman of the Board of Callahan, bought the house in 1964 from Brainard Farnham, a neighbor who for years has run an old-fashioned boarding house called "Falls View" that overlooks the dam where the falls used to be.

"They prospected here the year I bought my house, but they didn't say what was coming off," says the angry artist. "Their operation got underway last summer, and I've been pro-

told me an assessor would look at the damage. I said, 'Do you think the blasting might ease off?' They didn't answer.

"At three that afternoon they appeared with a lawyer who took photographs. Again I asked if the blasting would ease off. Mr. Maestretti shrugged.

"I asked Mr. Whitley when it might have happened. He said it might have happened anytime. Then he left.

"The damage was discouraging, but then I started to think that when my family is here we usually pull the table out to where the rock came through. It might have killed my wife and children. I was hoping to bring my daughter up here in three weeks. I've given it sec-

The Ellsworth American  
Ellsworth, Maine

Dear Sir:

I wish to express a few points in regard to your article in the April 26 issue of your newspaper.

I must admit in the heat of the moment things do get a bit irrational and after a few days of consideration some thoughts of importance do begin to jell. Fully realizing the desires of the State of Maine to get industry to come to the areas in need of employment, I think primary consideration should be given to what kind of business and the good or harm it could do the state.

Here on Cape Rosier in Harborside is a firm that is undertaking a business of an open pit mine that to my knowledge has in the past been synonymous with the wide open spaces. My deepest aggravation over the whole mess at my bungalow was the fact that I could not get an answer from Callahan Mining's engineers to the question "Could it happen again? Quite frankly it enraged me. Maine to my family and especially to our two little girls is a way of life. Here in New Jersey where my home is nine months of the year, we have no grass for the children to play in, the air stinks of industrial pollution, and I think of Maine more than perhaps an average person would. To me it is a Godsend to be able to turn the children out to play in the fields, take them for a boat ride once in a while and have them breathe decent air without the ridiculous hazard of 62 and 87 pound boulders haphazardly falling from the skies. Everybody has to make a living, so Callahan will be there 5 or 7 years to provide jobs for some 70 people; this is fine. But why should this company in the name of progress create a hazard for property and families living in this area of the mine? In my estimation this is not right, nor should it be considered legal.

The least that could be done on their part to make it more bearable for the people in the vicinity of the blasting is to warn of the blast about to take place, and to suppress the fly rocks hurled by the blast, clear up the mud on the public roads they have been responsible for, and warn the motorist on the public road near the mine. These are but a few things I believe to be common sense and courtesy on their part.

After your article on this situation Mr. James, Vice-President of Callahan Mining, did call me and state that "their blasting procedures will be revised." I am saddened that no one from Callahan when they were shown the damage caused by the fly rock had the courtesy to apologize, nor could they say it wouldn't happen again. They had someone there to assess damages and even a lawyer whose advice to the engineers was to say nothing.

Through this display of poor taste and judgment on Callahan's part the last of this situation has not been heard.

Thank you for your time and effort to bring to the majority the voice of concern by the minority.

Sincerely,

ALBERT SANDECKI.

# Airborne rock crashes through roof of Cape Rosier cottage



A ROCK WHICH PASSED through the roof of his house in Cape Rosier recently continued through the kitchen ceiling creating the hole shown above, according to Albert Sandecki, a New Jersey painter and summer resident of Cape Rosier. Sandecki contends that the rock was the result of a blast set off by the Callahan Mining Corporation within its nearby mining area.--Packet photo.

**BROOKSVILLE**--Flying rocks--especially big flying rocks--can be hazardous.

Albert Sandecki, New Jersey artist and a summer resident of Cape Rosier, found this out last week when he discovered a 57.5 pound rock lying on the floor in the kitchen of his summer home.

The rock, which apparently passed through the roof of Sandecki's house en route to its destination, tore a large hole in the kitchen ceiling, smashed a table and stove, and damaged the floor and support joist beneath.

Sandecki first learned of the incident when he was called at his New Jersey home last Wednesday by Brainard Farnham, Brooksville, a next-door neighbor to the Sandecki cottage in Cape Rosier.

**FARNHAM DISCOVERED** The hole in the roof at about 4 p.m. that afternoon, shortly after a blast had occurred in the nearby work area of the Callahan Mining Corporation.

Sandecki flew up from New Jersey the following day and surveyed the damage, which he contends was the result of a Callahan blast. He said that he went to Callahan's office Thursday afternoon to talk

would have been impossible to blast such a rock that far.

"AFTER THEY saw the second rock inside the house, however," said Sandecki, "nothing more was said. When I asked if the blasting would ease off I received no answer."

He said that the mining officials returned that afternoon with a lawyer who viewed the scene and took some pictures. "I asked again if the blasting would ease off and again I received no answer," said Sandecki.

"I am not concerned about the damage as much as the fact that Callahan won't give me any answer as to whether such an incident might occur again," Sandecki said Saturday. "If this continues, someone may be injured or killed."

He said the rock struck the area where he and his family are usually seated for meals during the summer months.

**FARNHAM** also told the PACKET that he had a sizeable collection of rocks ranging from five to eight pounds that have landed on his property during recent months.

we have had people observe every blast from an area which they considered to be a safe distance from the blast.

"There were seven people concerned with the blast on Wednesday who were much closer to the blast than the distance to Sandecki's house--approximately 750 feet--and none of them observed any fly-rock."

Senior engineer Gavin Young said that the blasting is done on a fairly regular basis, and nearly always occurs from 3:30 to 4 p.m., during the change of shifts.

He said that individual residents are not generally personally notified of a particular blast, since they are not within the immediate blast area, which is considered within Callahan's boundaries.

**YOUNG SAID**, however, that the Dyers, who formerly lived on property immediately next to the blasting area, were notified of blasts while they lived there.

"We have never before received any report of any rocks falling on anyone's property," James declared. "This is the first report we've had of a fly-rock possibility and we are making a complete review of our procedures here as a result."

Callahan has been blasting in the same general area since January of this year, James said.

# PACKET OPINION

If all Printers were determin'd not to print any thing till they were sure it would offend no body, there would be very little printed.

--Benjamin Franklin, 1731

## A loud whistle, perhaps?

The unfortunate incident on Cape Rosier last week may indicate that a better warning system is needed in blasting operations of Callahan Mining Company.

Albert Sandecki, whose property adjoins Callahan's, contends a chunk of rock which crashed into and through his cottage was the result of a Callahan blast. Fortunately, the cottage was unoccupied. Sandecki and others in the neighborhood say that rock frequently flies from blasts at the mine site, and add that no advance warning is given of shots.

Callahan officials state they have a system of clearing the immediate area of the blast before each shot. Until this rock, they say, they had received no complaints that material was being blown off Callahan property. One resident of Harborside noted he had picked up numerous bits of rock on his prop-

erty, but added he had not notified mine officials.

Fortunately, none of this material has hit anyone. Were a rock such as the one that fell through Mr. Sandecki's overhead to hit a person, the results would be tragic.

Callahan officials have always been sympathetic to solving whatever problems they could, easing as much as possible those tensions which are bound to arise when an operation such as theirs is established in an area such as Harborside.

Now that the problem has arisen, we believe Callahan will make every effort to control it. And if Harborside residents are edgy--as apparently they are--about not having advance warning of blasts, we think it would be to Callahan's--and the public's--advantage to develop some sort of audible warning to sound a few minutes before each blast.

# Hey, Ed!

12 MAY 1967

Hey, Ed!

This is in regard to your article in the April 27th issue of the Weekly Packet concerning the damage to my bungalow in Harborside.

I feel there is a great need for a few additional points to be brought out about Callahan Mining Corporation's safety precautions in regard to their neighbors in the immediate vicinity of the open pit operations on Cape Rosier. Granted this is not at all necessary for the mine to do, but out of common decency and a regard for human life, limb, and property it is a must in my opinion.

As you pointed out in your Packet Opinion there is a need for a suitable warning system for the public prior to blasting, with enough time to take needed shelter or time to get the heck out of the area. Callahan does warn their employees, I am given to understand by one Mr. Jack James.

As you noted in your article, Mr. Brainard F. Farnham has an extensive rock collection averaging in size from one ounce to eight lbs. gathered this past winter up until April 20th.

His silence was due to feelings that Callahan would not listen nor own up to the missiles as being theirs. He now has the opportunity to speak up, through the 62 pounder since deposited through my roof. His feelings were further borne out by Mr. Whitley's and Mr. McGuffie's attitude of disbelief when shown the 87 pounder resting near my studio.

Fortunately my house was not occupied at the time of the rock's entrance and fortunately we are now given our chance to speak on the matter of Callahan fly-rock.

As for the other points worth airing, they are as follows: The public road towards Goose Falls has no warning to the unwary motorist that blasting operations are in progress in the area, no signs or flagmen whatsoever to date of April 23rd. No effort to my neighbors' or to my knowledge has been made to suppress the rocks flung by the blasting to date of April 23rd.

Charges are extremely powerful (in my estimation) to be safe for any local resident as evidenced by the rain of rocks of 1 ounce up to 62 and 87 pounds that have been flung through the air a distance of from 50 to 350 yards from the point of the blast, not 750 feet as stated in your article. The above figures have been revised on the weight of the rock which hit the house since finding one additional piece of rock weighing 4 1/2 lbs. under the rubble of the fallen ceiling in the kitchen.

Above all, no assurance that this could or would not happen again is rather upsetting to me and my concern for my family's safety and my work of painting in the future at Harborside, Maine. However since the publication of the Ellsworth American article of April 26th, Mr. James did inform me of a revision in progress of Callahan's blasting procedures and that my suggestion of warning local residents by phone or a knock at the door of an impending blast was a good idea and he would look into it.

And lastly, I was angered by the fact that an apology was not extended on the part of the two Callahan officials when first shown the damage. An apology, I imagine, would constitute an admission on their part of the responsibility for the rocks. Human concern, dignity and courtesy were thrown out the window and has since promoted in me a feeling that the last of this blast has yet to be heard.

Albert E. Sandecki  
Haddonfield, N. J.



## THE WEEKLY PACKET

Established December 1, 1960

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A weekly newspaper published each Thursday for the communities of southwestern Hancock County by Jerry L. and Gayle H. Durnbaugh. Publication offices are in the Pendleton Building, Water Street, Blue Hill, Maine. For news or advertising call 374-5643 or write

50 Turner Street  
Haddonfield, N.J.  
1 May 1967

The Weekly Packet  
Blue Hill, Maine  
Letter to the Editor

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As you noted in your article, Mr. Brainard F. Farnham has an extensive rock collection averaging in size from one ounce to eight lbs. Gathered this past winter up until April 20th.

His silence was due to justifiable feelings that Callahan would not listen nor own up to the missiles as being theirs. He now has the opportunity to speak up, through the indisputable 62 pounder since deposited through my roof. His feelings were further borne out by Mr. Whitley's and Mr. McCuffie's attitude of disbelief when shown the 87 pounder resting near my studio.

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( Referring to Mr. Jack (puff and rumble) James as per his most famous statement to the extent of the noticeability of the blasting.) His having made this statement in Brooksville a few months back, I would like to say it may be quite true in Brooksville today. But, to use the vernacular, "it aint that way down heyah in Harborside".

Sincerely yours,

*Albert E. Sandeck*  
Albert E. Sandeck

P.S. Mr. Bowden I know this is long and I'm sorry, but there are a few who's lives could depend on these criticisms.

Thank you for your consideration.

50 Fanner Street  
Haddonfield, New Jersey  
April 28, 1977

The Ellsworth American  
Ellsworth, Maine

Dear Sir:

I wish to express a few points in regard to your article in the April 26 issue of your newspaper.

I must admit in the heat of the moment things do get a bit irrational and after a few days of consideration some thoughts of importance do begin to jell. Fully realizing the desires of the State of Maine to get industry to come to the areas in need of employment, I think primary consideration should be given to what kind of business and the good or harm it could do the state.

Here on Capo Rozier in Harborside is a firm that is undertaking a business that to my knowledge has in the past been synonymous with the wide open spaces of an open pit mine. My deepest aggravation over the whole mess at my bungalow was the fact that I could not get an answer from Callahan Mining's engineers to the question "Could it happen again?" Quite frankly it enraged me. Maine to my family and especially to our two little girls is a way of life. Here in New Jersey where my home is nine months of the year, we have no grass for the children to play in, the air stinks of industrial pollution, and I think of Maine more than perhaps an average person would. To me it is a godsend to be able to turn the children out to play in the fields, take them for a boat ride once in a while and have them breathe decent air without the ridiculous hazard of 62 and 87 pound boulders haphazardly falling from the skies. Everybody has to make a living, so Callahan will be there 5 or 7 years to provide jobs for some 70 people; this is fine. But why should this company in the name of progress create a hazard for property and families living in this area of the mine? In my estimation this is not right, nor should it be legal.

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Through this display of poor taste and judgment on Callahan's part the last of this situation had not been heard.

Thank you for your time and effort to bring to the majority the voice of concern by the minority.

Sincerely,

Albert Sandecki

# Restoration Of Penobscot River Commenced At Belfast Conference

APRIL 21 '67

A clean-up of the Penobscot River was initiated at an historic conference in Belfast on Tuesday, April 20. The conference was called by Sec. of the Interior Udall. It was conducted by Murray Stein of the Federal Water Pollution Control Administration. Other conferees were Lester Klashman of Boston, regional director of the same administration, and Raeburn W. MacDonald, chief engineer of the Maine Water Improvement Commission.

At the conclusion of the all day conference, the conferees announced their unanimous conclusions and recommendations: that pollution is occurring, that it is the result of untreated or inadequately treated wastes; that it causes substantial economic injury to the shellfish crop; that measures to abate pollution have been inadequate; and that delays have been caused by the complexity of the problems.

The conferees agreed on the water quality requirements set forth in the federal report on the Penobscot (stricter than state water classification). They declared that they will reconvene four months from now, by which time the offending cities and industries along the river will have to come up with a schedule of construction geared to the requirements. The paper mills were advised that they must plan to reduce their wastes.

A technical committee was established to aid in preparing plans to insure "that we can get a program satisfactory to individuals concerned and to the shellfish people."

The federally-ordered clean-up of the river is based on a federal law protecting shellfish.

In Hancock County the federal intervention forces action upon St. Regis Paper Co., the Town of Bucksport, Maine Blueberry Growers in Penobscot, the Town of Castine, and the Maine Maritime Academy in Castine.

In presenting the federal case government spokesmen declared that shellfish were a multi-million dollar resource. Mr. Stein also repeatedly reminded those attending that Maine should preserve the purity of its waters so that he and other Americans could enjoy vacations here.

Mr. Richard Griffith of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife declared that a program aimed at total restoration of salmon on the river has been undertaken and that fishways over dams are scheduled for construction. "The Penobscot can become one of the most important fishing waters in the U. S.," he said. "Its restoration will serve as a model elsewhere."

which donates \$70,000 per year for its upkeep, and that the Academy is a State institution.

James Lyle, Public Works Officer at the Academy, said that the school plans to have all its men living ashore within the time limit established by the new requirements. Since 1959 a yearly waiver has been obtained from the Maritime Administration to permit cadets to live aboard. He said that if Castine builds a sewage plant, the Academy would expect to join it or get the federal government to build one on the ship. "We would ask the state and federal governments for help in sharing costs," he said.

Mr. Swink said that Castine has had discussions with two engineering firms to negotiate for a preliminary survey, but they can't sign a contract until they know what the school is going to do.

David Pollard of the St. Regis Paper Co. said that the time schedule demanded constitutes a crash program. He allowed that on the other hand the thirteen years provided in the State table may be conservative. He offered seven to nine years as a realistic period by which to expect compliance. Mr. Pollard was perhaps the calmest participant at the conference.

He added that within the last twelve years, the company has spent three million dollars reducing its effluent and that it recognizes the need for pollution abatement. "We have initiated a cooperative study of the problem with Bucksport, and possibly a joint plant would be the most economical," he said. He emphasized that time is necessary for planning, engineering, financing, and construction. "The three and a half years allowed in the federal timetable is inadequate unless federal and State funds are made available to do the job." He called for a more reasonable schedule and more reasonable requirements. "97 percent removal is impossible," he said. "We feel that 85 percent removal is the top feasible percentage." It might be noted that at times nobody, including the conferees, seemed to be sure just what percentage was possible nor what was demanded.

Archie Sanborn, town manager of Bucksport, also questioned the time limit. "The town has engaged the services of a con-

waters so that he and other Americans could enjoy vacations here.

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Robert L. Dow of Maine's Sea & Shore Fisheries brought out the threat of a lobster disease called "red tail" which is likely to result from organic pollution. The disease has wiped out as many as 50 percent of the lobsters in storage ponds and threatens wild lobsters.

The poultry concerns in Belfast, formerly heavy offenders, announced plans already underway will enable them to comply with the new requirements.

The paper mills in Brewer and Bucksport said that depending on the interpretation of the requirements, they may be technically unable to comply. The Brewer company said it might have to close its sulfite operation. They were advised to aim at 85 percent reduction in concentrate.

Castine was represented by 2nd Selectman Joseph Swink, who pointed out that at a time when the federal government is calling for a reduction in pollution, it and the State are contributing to it at the Maine Maritime Academy where 250 cadets live aboard a ship that discharges raw sewage into the harbor and where garbage from meals for 500 cadets is disposed of through town sewers directly into the Bay. Residential garbage in the town is collected by a pig farmer.

The Academy began contributing food wastes last month on the completion of a new dining hall equipped with garbage disposal units. Mr. Stein advised Mr. Swink that if a community accepts waste in its sewers, it assumes legal responsibility for the waste. Whether or not the town has ever formally accepted the waste is an uncertainty.

"My opinion is that the Academy is responsible for more than 50 percent of the raw sewage now going into the waters of Castine," said Mr. Swink. He pointed out that the town has no conflict with the Academy and doesn't wish to start one, but said he felt that the State and the Federal government should pay a proportional share of the cost of treatment for the Academy's sewage and waste. He brought out that the Academy's training ship belongs to the Maritime Administration.

to do the job. He called for a more reasonable schedule and more reasonable requirements. "97 percent removal is impossible," he said. "We feel that 85 percent removal is the top feasible percentage." It might be noted that at times nobody, including the conferees, seemed to be sure just what percentage was possible nor what was demanded.

Archie Sanborn, town manager of Bucksport, also questioned the time limit. "The town has engaged the services of a consulting engineer to apply for federal funds to complete a preliminary survey," he said. "We have been advised that no funds are currently available nor will be for fifteen months, and that there is no assurance when, if ever, they will be available. Regardless of what State and federal funds are available, the town hasn't credit available to finance it on its own," he added. "Any time limit we are required to meet must be accompanied by availability of funds." He contributed the information that St. Regis may lend the town money for a preliminary survey, and that financing for sewage plants by revenue bonds is difficult to get in Maine. In regard to the time schedule, he mentioned that last year the Maine Municipal Association decided a minimum of ten years was realistic. He reiterated that timely funding was imperative.

The meeting concluded at 6:00 p.m. "We have made a great advance here," said Mr. Stein. "I think the key to this is going to be cooperation." Mr. Stein didn't allude to the fact that anyone who doesn't "cooperate" incurs a federal penalty.

50 Tanner Street  
Haddonfield,  
New Jersey 08033  
25, April 1967

Mr. Herbert T. Silsby 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Silsby and Silsby Law Office  
68 Main Street  
Ellsworth, Maine 04605

Dear Mr. Silsby,

I am sorry not to be in your office with Brainard and Marian Farnham this Thursday, unfortunately I have obligations that take my time here in Haddonfield, New Jersey.

Enclosed are all the facts pertaining to the <sup>DAMAGE</sup> of my home and studio in Harborside Maine. I use this place for my familys vacation in summer as well as a studio in which I persue my livelihood as an artist in the spring, summer and fall. Drawingg on the subject matter that is most beneficial to my style of work, which I find readily available in the area.

Enclosed along with these facts are some observations I have made over the time that the Callahan Mining Corporation of New York have been working on Cape Rosier. These points are the truth and I feel there is great need for these facts to be brought out.

I would appreciate your taking my case against Callahan Mining Corporation. If you feel I have one.

The Farnhams have suffered greatly, my Damages are but the key that may unlock the hold that Callahan Mining has on Cape Rosier, And above all could save a life or further needless destruction of property.

This terrible situation as you can see is of utmost importance to the Farnhams and I, but I will have to figure carefully and budget before hand to provide what is necessary. As you may or may not know I am not a man of great means, therefore I would appreciate your estimate of the projected cost of this litigation.

I would like a letter from you, Mr. Silsby, describing the basis upon which you would handle the case. Also enclosed is the card of my lawyer here in New Jersey, and Mr. Baumgartner asked me to tell you to feel free to call on him at anytime, quite frankly there may be a time when I do not under stand a legal term and Mr. Baumgartner is a friend of mine upon whom I can call on down here in New Jersey, if the need araises.

I am guessing, as I have not recieved as yet an estimate on the physical damages to the house, I think it will be over \$ 1,000.00.

Along with the blasting danger having depreciated the value of our property.

In hopes of a successful conclusion to our undertaking.

Sincerely yours,

Albert E. Sandeckl

COMPLETE DESCRIPTION  
of Damage and Events in  
HARBORSIDE, MAINE:

I, Albert Sandecki, and my wife Jean, jointly own a property consisting of a home, studio and two acres of land in Harborside, on Cape Rosier in Hancock County, Maine.

On Wednesday April 19<sup>th</sup> at 4:45 Mr. Brainard L. Farnham, friend and neighbor telephoned to me in Haddonfield, New Jersey, to tell me of damage to our residence in Maine. He stated "a rock had hit the house and had torn through the roof and into the kitchen staving things up pretty badly, and that he had put a temporary patch on the roof, but I had better come up because the damage was quite extensive."

7:55 A.M.

The next morning, April 20<sup>th</sup>, I flew up via Northeast Airlines to Bangor, Maine, rented a car, and arrived at Harborside, Maine at 2<sup>P.M.</sup>

8:00 P.M.

Upon entering the house I noticed debris on the living room floor and proceeded into the kitchen and saw a large hole in the kitchen ceiling, debris littered all over the room such as 2x4's building boards ceiling material, electrical wires hanging down, broken table, smashed woodstove, and so on. I touched nothing and proceeded to take polaroid photographs of the damage. The rock that did the damage weighed exactly 62 pounds, and measured 15<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>" x 12" x 5". Two fragments of rock had broken from the larger portion which weighed 53 pounds. The fragments weighed 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> pounds each.

1:30 P.M.

Mr. Farnham arrived and showed me a second rock that weighed exactly 87 pounds, and measured 15" x 18" x 8" that landed exactly 12' 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" from the building I use as my studio for painting. Mr. Farnham and I gauged the approximate distance the rocks had traveled from the blasting area as a minimum of 400 yards.

cont:

9:00 P.M.

That evening at about 4:30 P.M. Mr. Farnham and I went to the mining area to look for Mr. Cecil Whitley, a mining engineer I had met in the past. I saw a Mr. Maestretti sitting in a mining company truck and I asked to see Mr. Whitley. Mr. Maestretti said "Mr. Whitley had left for Blue Hill early today. He was not feeling too well." I left a note with Mr. Maestretti asking that Mr. Whitley contact me at his convenience. I then asked Mr. Maestretti, "How much powder do you put in those holes to cause such a roar?" Mr. Maestretti answered: "About 60 pounds per hole."

7:00 A.M.

The next morning, April 21<sup>st</sup>, I waited until 10:00 A.M. for Mr. Whitley. He did not arrive. Knowing work starts at the mine at 7:00 A.M., I felt three hours was enough for me to wait; I proceeded back to the mine site and met Victor Dyer (employee at mine) and asked, "Where is Cecil?" He told me, "Down at the new buildings in the office". I arrived at the office and spoke with Mr. McGuffey, engineer at Callahan offices, and told him that I wanted to show Mr. Whitley something at my house.

Mr. McGuffey went to get Mr. Whitley in another office.

10:00 A.M.

Mr. Whitley, Mr. McGuffey, and I then got into a mining company truck and drove to my house. While enroute I asked Mr. Whitley, "How much blasting material is used to make such a roar?" Mr. Whitley answered, "We use about a third of a pound per ton to be moved". I then asked Mr. Whitley how many tons do they move at a shot. He said, "Two or so tons". "If we want to move more we plug it and it may move ten or twelve tons that way."

This statement of one third of a pound per ton did not coincide with Mr. Maestretti's statement the previous evening of sixty pounds per hole. (if, as Mr. Whitley stated, they only move two or so tons or

cont:

maybe when plugged ten or twelve tons, figuring ten or twelve tons moved at one third of a pound per ton equals four pounds of powder  $12 \times \frac{1}{3} = 4$ )

10:10A.M.

Upon arriving at the house and my showing Mr. Whitley and Mr. McGuffy the 87 pound <sup>rock</sup> near the studio outside Mr. McGuffy stated, "A rock that size could not possibly have come that far from the mine". I said, "I admit it is hard to believe, and quite frankly when Brainard Farnham first told me of it a few weeks ago (they noticed it after the snow had melted) I thought it fell off a truck of yours or someone placed it there as a joke - poor as it would be." Mr. Whitley, and Mr. McGuffy both smilingly agreed with my observation. (The rock had landed there at some earlier date.)

10:15A.M.

At this point I asked both men into my house as I had another thing to show them. Upon showing Mr. Whitley and Mr. McGuffy the destruction in the house a silence came over them with the exception of Mr. McGuffy's statement of, "the rock came through and evidently had a shotgun effect". I asked of both men, "Could this occur again?" "After all I do have a wife and two little girls, and do not want them to be endangered while they are here." To this question (put in a gentlemanly manner) I received no reply, just a shrug of the shoulder on both Mr. Whitley's and Mr. McGuffy's part.

Brainard Farnham steped in, whereupon Mr. Whitley and Mr. McGuffy walked out the front door. I followed and asked again, "Could this happen again?" (again in a civil manner). Mr. McGuffy said, "We will have to talk to Gavin Young. He is in Salt Lake City, Utah; we will get back to you soon." They left - again not answering my question. At this time I was incensed by their not answering my single nicely put question, and their inability to even express an apology!

cont:

11:00A.M.

Brainard and I went to his house for lunch. At noon Mr. Maestretti and Mr. Whitley arrived and refused Brainard's invitation to come in. I went to the door and Mr. Whitley said to me, "We have spoken to Utah and New York City and we will have an adjuster here tomorrow morning from Bangor at 9:00A.M." I did not answer, but asked my question again, "Could it happen again?", and received no response.

3:00P.M.

I was at my house working in the yard when Mr. Maestretti, Whitley, and a Mr. Douglas B. Chapman (whose purpose there was not mentioned until I asked later). Mr. Chapman asked if he could take some polaroid pictures of the damage; I said "yes" then asked who he was. He said, "I am a lawyer representing the Callahan Mining Corporation, assistant to Mr. Fenton, attorney of Bar Harbor." While the four of us were in the house, myself helping Mr. Chapman operate his camera, I again asked Mr. Whitley, "Could this happen again?" and, "Will the blasting be a bit less powerful now that this has occurred?". Whitley's answer to me was, "Our lawyer has advised us to say nothing."

Mr. Chapman then asked me, "What do you intend to do about this?" I answered, "I don't know." He then said, "Well you are going to have it fixed; aren't you?" I answered: "That will be one of the things I will do, yes". As they were leaving I asked Mr. Chapman, "Since you asked me a question, and I answered it could I ask Mr. Whitley one question in your, his lawyer's, presence, and get an answer from him?" Mr. Chapman said, "Yes." I asked Mr. Whitley, "When did the rock come through the roof of my house?" (I wanted to pin down the time of the accident). I said further, "Mr. Barnham saw the hole Wednesday at about 3:30P.M., but he wasn't sure that it happened that day although he did look at the house on Tuesday and did not notice the hole in the roof then."

cont:

answered that he did not know when it happened. I asked, "Well, was there particularly heavy blasting on either Tuesday or Wednesday?"

Whitley said, "I do not know, it could have happened anytime I suppose."

All three then drove off.

9:00A.M.

That evening through feelings of all sorts, I called the editor of

THE WEEKLY PACKET, Blue Hill, and the editor of THE ELLSWORTH AMERICAN,

both handling local Maine news.

9:00A.M.

The next morning, Saturday, April 22nd, at 9:00A.M. Mr. Hugh Bowden, editor of the WEEKLY PACKET came for pictures and an interview which lasted about forty five minutes.

1:15A.M.

Mr. Treadwell and Mr. Maestretti stopped by to look at the damage.

I asked Mr. Treadwell his business here, and he stated that he represented Continental Insurance Companies (P.O.Box 814 Bangor, Maine). His company insures Callahan Mining and he is their resident adjuster, and he was here to see the damage and take some pictures. I permitted him to do so, I asked Mr. Maestretti his business here; he stated "I am in charge of pit operations, and am responsible for the blasting down at the mine. That's why you see so much of me."

While Mr. Treadwell photographed the damage I asked Mr. Maestretti how rocks of this size, 62 and 87 pounds could travel this distance from the mine. I could not understand why I could not find smaller ones on my property although Brainard's property between my place and the mine has many smaller rocks on it from one ounce to eight pounds. Mr. Maestretti said "The larger rocks are less affected by air resistance and having more weight are inclined to actually travel farther if they get a high enough arc." While Mr. Maestretti and I talked together I asked him what other trouble than this is common with open pit mines,

cont:

He stated, "They also have a tendency to drain wells." I also asked him, "Are these blasting holes boughed off at one time, on in a one, two, three, fashion?", Mr. Maestretti answered, "No not at once, they are set off in a one, two, three series. "Oh!", I said, "There seems to be just one blast." He said, "Well, you could not tell them apart because there is just a milli second between them." (Mr. Treadwell witnessed the latter part of this conversation.) While r. Maestretti and I were talking Brainard came in and expressed a few of his feelings towards the mine such as, "You never warn us of the blasting." Mr. Maestretti said, "We will probably warn you in the future, and I am sorry at this late a date to tell you this." Both men then left saying that Mr. A.B. Herrick from Blue Hill would be along shortly to estimate the damages for the Continental Insurance Co.

11:45A.M.

Mr. John H. Wiggins Editor of the BELLSMOUTH AMERICAN stopped in, took pictures. (His address is: Box 92 Brooklin, Mo.)

Mr. Wiggins' interview was interrupted by A.B. Herrick to look at the damage for an estimate on repairs. I asked Halcom Herrick for a copy of the estimate. He said, "OK with me, but I have to check with Continental Insurance first to see if I can give you a copy." I gave him my name and address. They left. The interview with Mr. Wiggins continued until about 1:00P.M.

Friday night, April 21<sup>st</sup> blast took place with no warning at about 4:30P.M.

Friday night: Drilling continued until about 2:00A.M.

Saturday morning, April 22<sup>nd</sup>: mining activity slowed (unusual)

Saturday night: No blasting, all activity ceased (usual)

Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>: No activity at all at mine site (usual)

Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>: Frederick Dyer came over for my estimate of repairs at 9:00A.M.

Monday, April 24<sup>th</sup>: Little mine activity. No blasting.

Appended : The exact time of the blast on April 19th 1967 at the Callahan Mine was provided to me by a Mrs. Malcolm Gray my neighbor, she stated,  
"It was at 3:45 P.M. April 19th, I know because I always look at the clock when they blast. I don't know why I do it, its just a habit of mine.

April 22, 1967

The following is a list of what I consider makes my home and studio in Harborside, Maine, unlivable and legitimate cause for concern.

1. Rocks have been and still are (up to April 20, 1967) landing on my property in Harborside and on my neighbor's, Brainerd L. Farnham, since this past winter. Mr. Farnham has collected about 1 peck of rocks from 1 ounce to 5 pounds.
2. There is and has been absolutely no warning given before blasting is to occur (to date of April 20, 1967) - no whistle, siren, or verbal warning whatsoever to local residents in the immediate vicinity of the open pit operation, with the exception of one warning to stay back from the area of blasting when the Goose Falls were being blasted out in August of 1966.
3. The blasting has been carried out in an obviously irresponsible manner to date as evidenced by the rain of rocks 1 inch in diameter, 1 ounce in weight, to 18 inches in diameter, 8 inches thick, 87 pounds, any one of which could without exaggeration maim or kill someone, either a resident mowing a lawn within 400 yards of the blast's origin, or a person sitting down to a meal (majority of the blasts occur about 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., learned through experience) or the unknowing motorist driving towards the area could be conceivably struck by falling rock. There are no signs on the public road towards the mine area warning of this hazard as of April 22, 1967
4. No effort to my knowledge or my neighbor's has been made to suppress flying rocks with steel mesh or anything

that would protect people in the vicinity from hurled rocks.

5. Charges are either miscalculated or extremely too powerful (in my estimation) to be safe for any local residence. Rocks of 62 lbs. and 87 lbs. have been flung through the air a distance of 400 yards from the origin of the blast with an obvious inability to direct where they come to rest.

6. Mud which turns to dust that is carried by the wheels of the vehicles of the mine's employees is continually stirred up and blown into residents' homes.

7. In the name of "progress" hard rock drilling begins at 7 a.m. and is interrupted only by a nerve shattering, unforwarned blast of fearful proportions. Drilling then continues until 4 a.m./ What the hell goes on between 4 a.m. and 7 a.m. God only knows.

8. After asking the Callahan officials if the blasting from now on will be controlled or a bit more care taken with the dynamiting, I was not granted the courtesy of an answer \* simply a shrug of the engineer's shoulders.

9. I was angered by the fact that I have been caused severe damage to my dwelling, and to me a place of work for a good portion of my livelihood. Furthermore, I am incensed by the fact that the 62 lb. rock that crashed through my house roof and into our kitchen could have killed one or both of my children, my wife, or myself, had we been there when the rock struck. The 87 pounder landed 7 feet from where my daughter likes to dig in a corner of our vegetable plot. The Callahan officials would not answer my question of "would the blasting be a bit more carefully handled in the future?"

10. The officials were not even aware of this damage as

evidenced by their reactions when shown the rocks and damage, nor did they express any concern for this hazard to life, limb, and property in the vicinity of their blasting.

11. All in all, to me this bespeaks gross irresponsibility in the managing of a dangerous business. A low degree of concern for the little guy who happens to live near the open pit workings.

12. And above all no assurance of safer proceedings on their part in the future.

13. All this points to the fact that my family will be endangered while residing in this house spring, summer, and fall, and my work as an artist in my studio will be disrupted which will have a detrimental effect on my income through the producing and selling of my paintings.

## LIST OF DAMAGES

to studio home of

Albert E. Sendecki

Harborside, Maine

April 19, 1967

On property: an 87 lb., 15" by 18" by 8" (at point of impact) blasted rock 2 feet onto the east property line which abutts Brainard L. Farnham's property; 50 feet from the north line which is public road; 12 feet from rock to the nearest building to the west, my studio; 8 feet from children's playground to the north. Approximate distance to origin of blast is 400 yards.

Dwelling is located 40 feet from east boundary, 25 feet from north boundary. Blasted rock weighing 62 lb. entered roof of house 2 feet from peak, 20 feet above ground level at 3:45 p.m. on April 18th, 1967. Rock entered at point 9 feet in from side of structure.

Physical damage to house interior: Rock made a hole in roof 18" by 36" entering from easterly direction, tearing out rafters and sheathing boards on roof. It struck the approximate center of the 11' by 13' kitchen, making a 6' by 6' hole in the ceiling. One ceiling joist and 3 ceiling fleaters smashed. Electrical wiring stretched and electrical junction boxes in bedroom, kitchen, and living room strained (loose connections). Kitchen table broken. Upon entering kitchen the larger portion of rock (53½ lb) knocked kerosene lamp from table showering room with kerosene, smashed wood stove, and broke through double layered flooring of matched spruce and split floor joist of 2" x 6" spruce. Asbestos fire wall behind stove has a broken

hole 10" in diameter where rock came to rest. New automatic washer front scraped by falling wood.

Smaller portion of rock ( $4\frac{1}{2}$  lb) hit floor 18" from side of stove, bounced smashing other kerosene lamp placed on the floor. Kitchen walls are splattered with kerosene and debris is littered all over kitchen and into living room. Light fixtures in living room and bedroom sprung from ceiling, and one portion of slatting on living room ceiling sprung.

Electrical appliances not checked for mechanical damage because power was not turned on.

CLOSE UP OF 87 LB ROCK  
MARCH 1967 HARBORSIDE, ME.

87 LB  
MAR  
1967



PHOTO PROPERTY OF  
A. SANDECKI

8' DISTANCE FROM CHILDRENS PLAY YARD ← 12' FROM STUDIO  
87 POUND BLASTER ROCK MARCH 1967

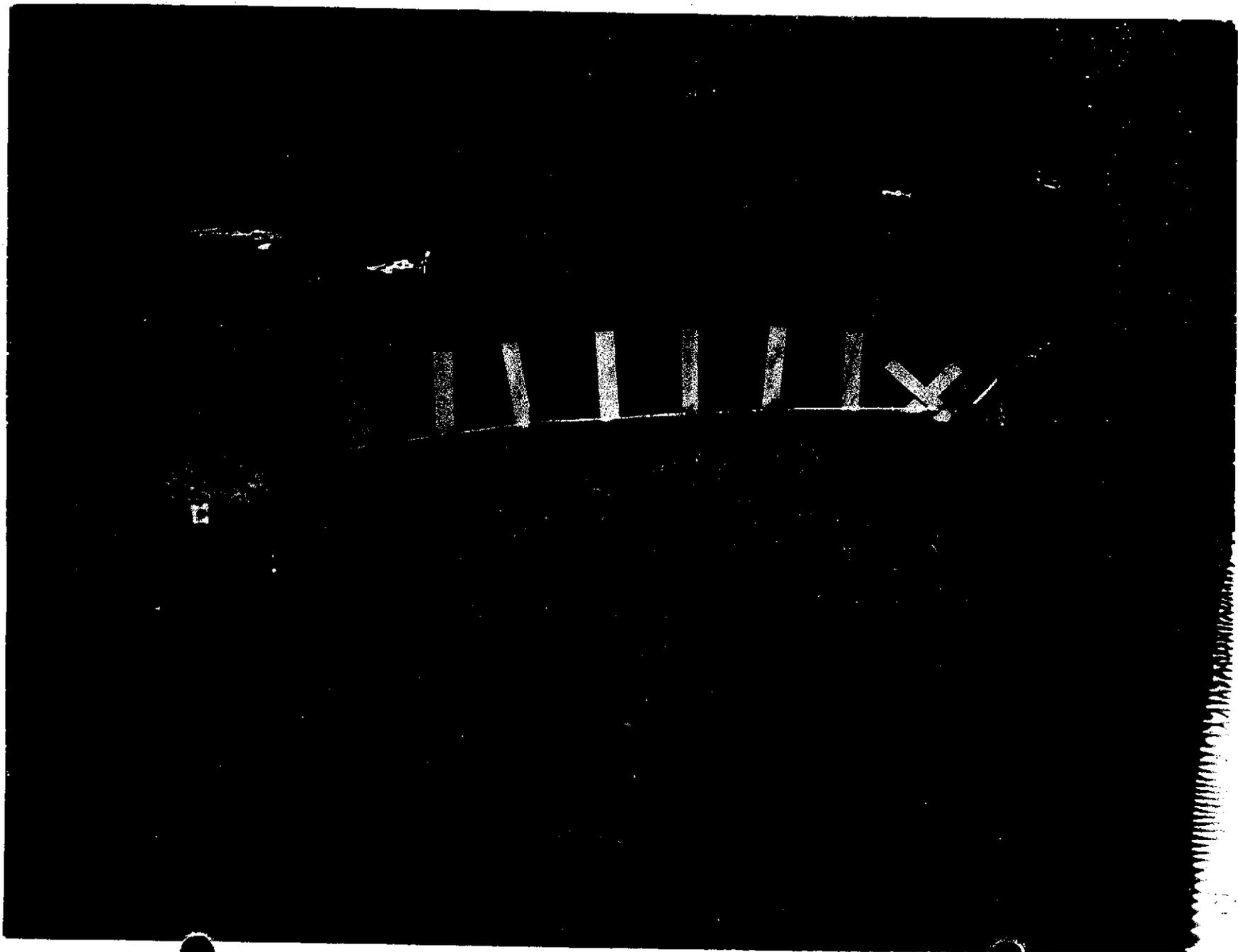
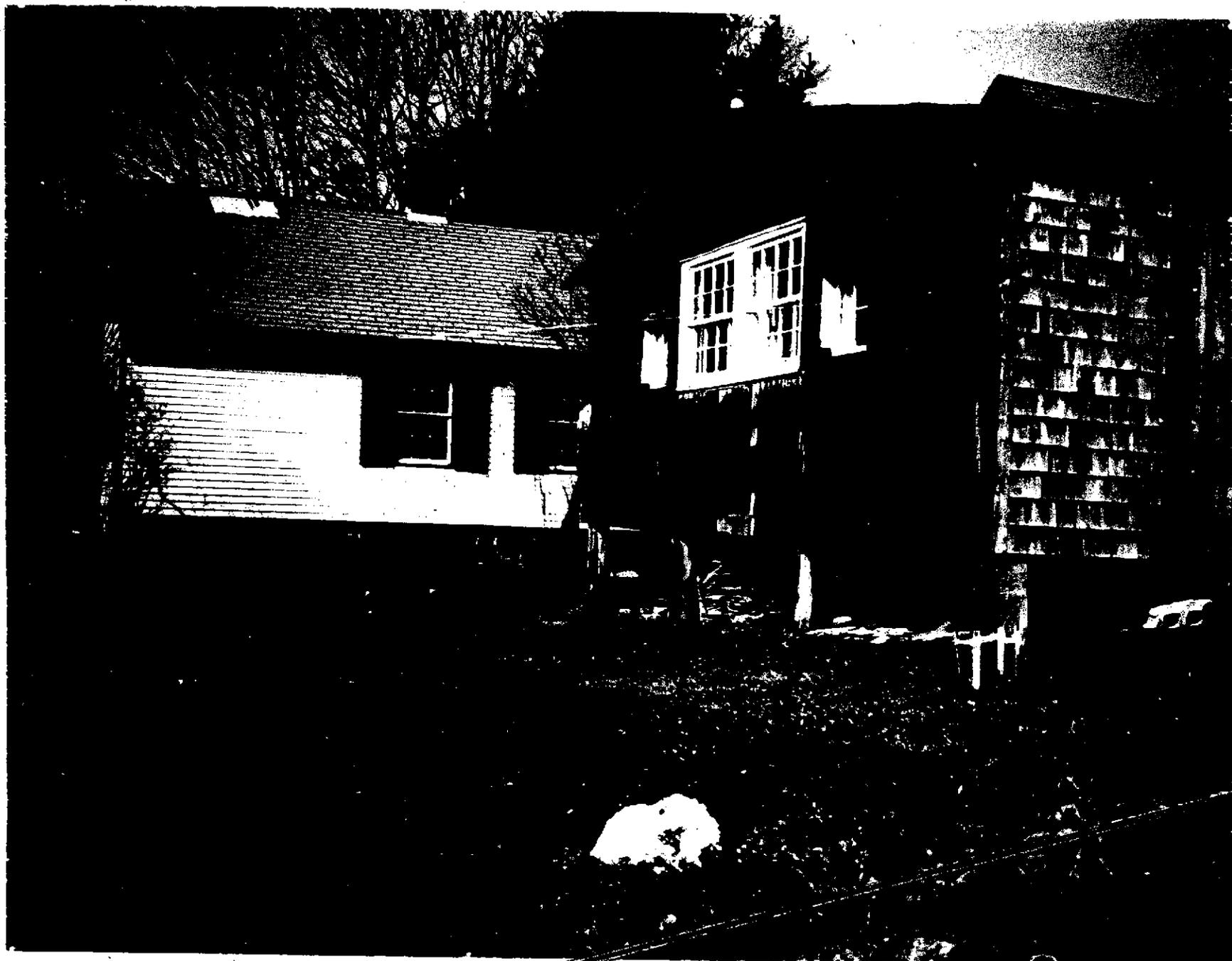


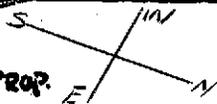
PHOTO PROPERTY OF  
A. SANDECKI

VIEW UP GRAND KOCK  
APPROX  $\angle 45^\circ$  FROM EASTERLY DIRECTION



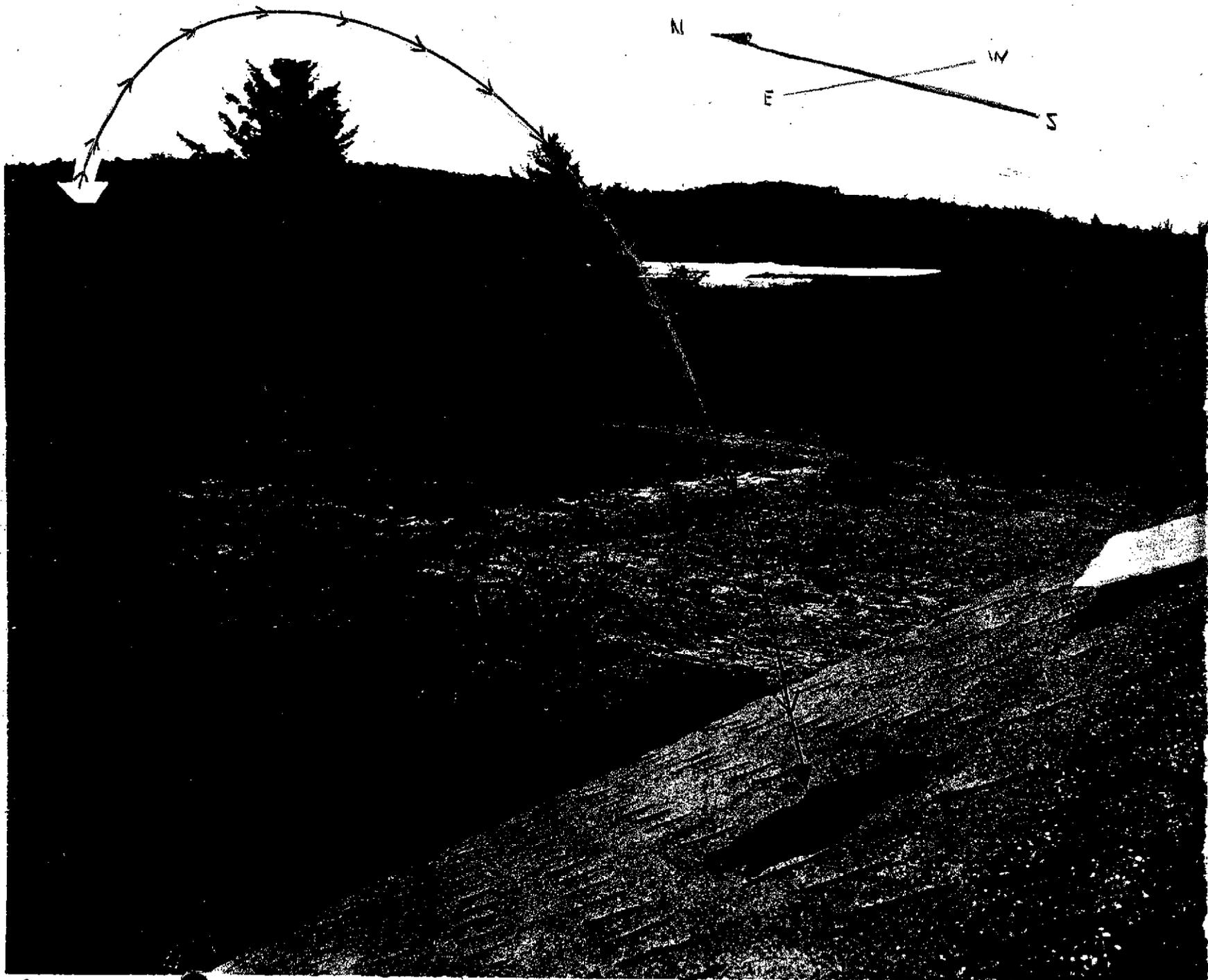
S DECKI PROP.

FARNHAM PROP.



PHOTO

PROPERTY OF  
A. Samolicki



APPROX DIRECTION OF ROCK 62 POUNDER  
FROM BLASTING AREA OF CAHANAN MINING CORP.

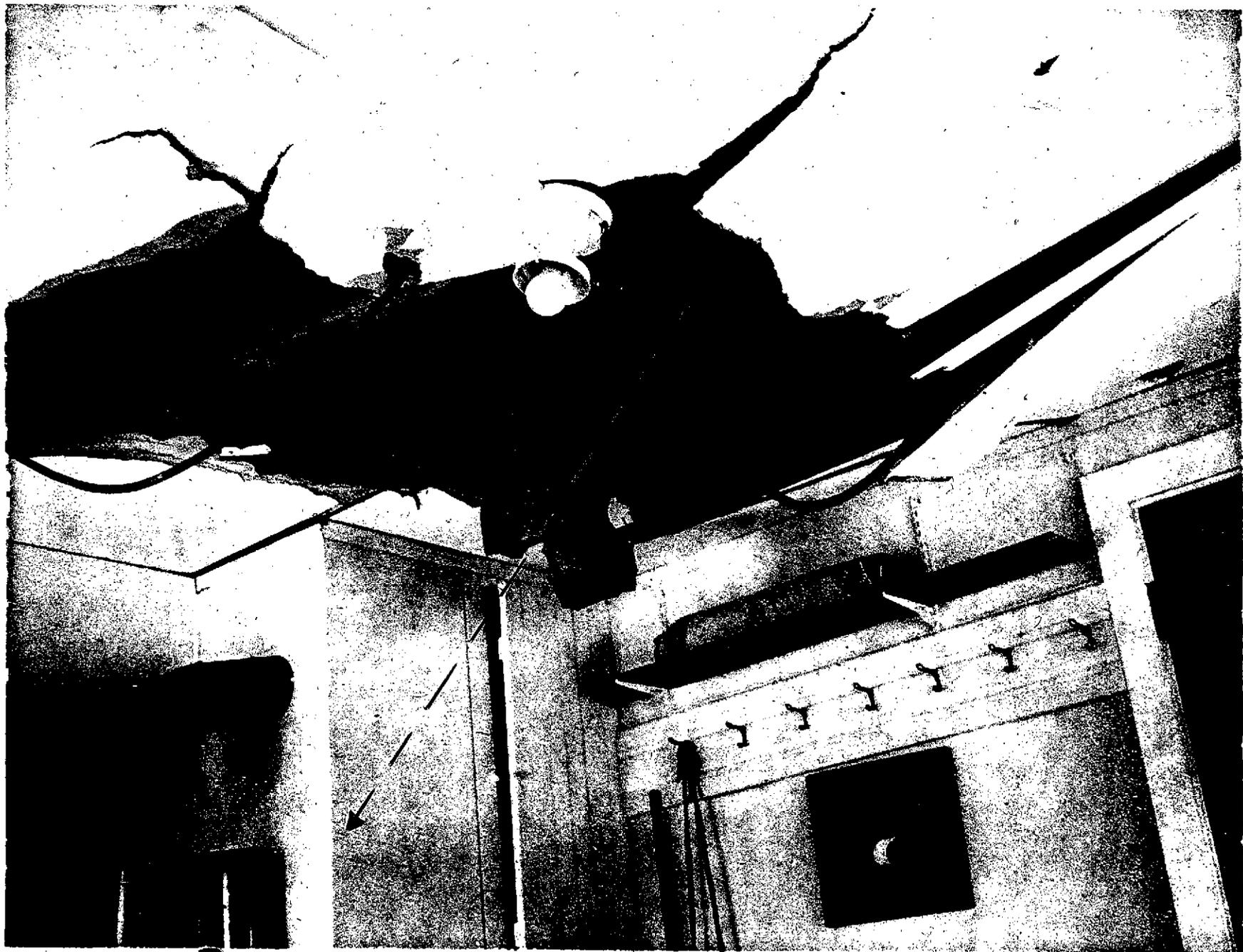
PHOTO PROPERTY OF  
A. SANDECKI

INTERIOR OF ROOF  
APPROX  $\angle$  OF ROCKS ENTRANCE 45° EASTERLY DIRECTION



PHOTO  
PROPERTY OF  
A. SANDECKI

KITCHEN CEILING



TO  
PROPERTY OF  
A. SANDRICK

INTERIOR VIEW OF KITCHEN  
APRIL 20<sup>TH</sup> 1967 HARBORSIDE, ME.



PROPERTY OF  
A. SANDECKI

KITCHEN INTERIOR 62 LB ROCK CAME TO REST BEHIND STOVE  
3:45 PM APRIL 19<sup>th</sup> 1967



PHOTO  
PROPERTY OF  
H. Sandberg