

Donovan Mill Project Progress

March 14, 2020 – December 1, 2020. Volunteers were John Ollson, Mark Perkins, Russ Wright, Jeff Goldsworthy, Lee Brunell, Larry Radford, Bob Chambers, Greg and Lisa Jayne, Don and Elaine Bergstrom. Approximately 4,500 volunteer hours were logged!



The dies for battery #4 were provided by Millwright Charlie Connell, Phoenix, AZ. Machinist Garrett Ulmer, Moundhouse, tapered one end of the dies so they would fit into the bottom of the battered mortar box. Don moved the 100# dies into position.



The Machine Shop blacksmithing equipment: lathe, drill press, hack saw and trip hammer are now operating via belts driven by the main line shaft. Work was done mainly with the skillful hands of John & Mark.

John installs pulley and belt on main line shaft to drive secondary line shaft.



Drill press installed on north wall of machine shop.

Mark fabricating bolts.



Secondary line shaft running the trip hammer.



Hood for forge was donated by the Arizona State Museum. Everyone had a hand with stove pipe installation! Bob & Larry installed the new chimney cap and flange.



Masonry work for the forge foundation was completed by Greg with Lisa.



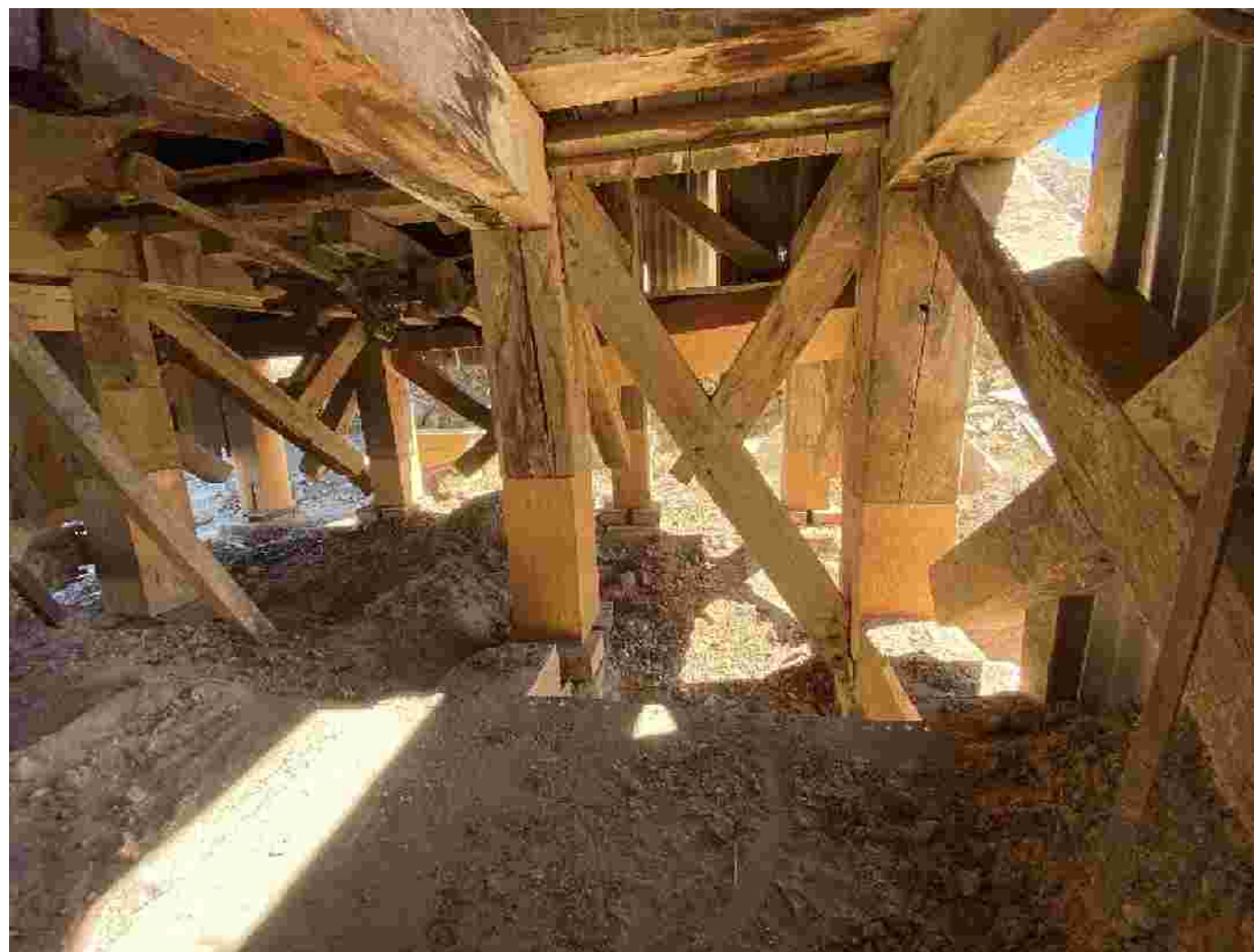
Service Concentrating Table from the Clack Mill is being restored and is nearing completion. Rich Brook, Silver Springs Mining Equipment, installed EPDM surface and riffles. The photo below is of the table in its original location at the Clack Mill. Russ did the majority of the work on this project.



Greg and Lisa restored brickwork on mercury retort south of the refinery. Check out the article by Lisa on Comstock Foundation website submitted to the American Spirit, newsletter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR).



Restoration of the building structure holding the crusher, ore bin, and grizzly is completed.
Many days & many hands: Bob, Russ, Larry, Don and Elaine!



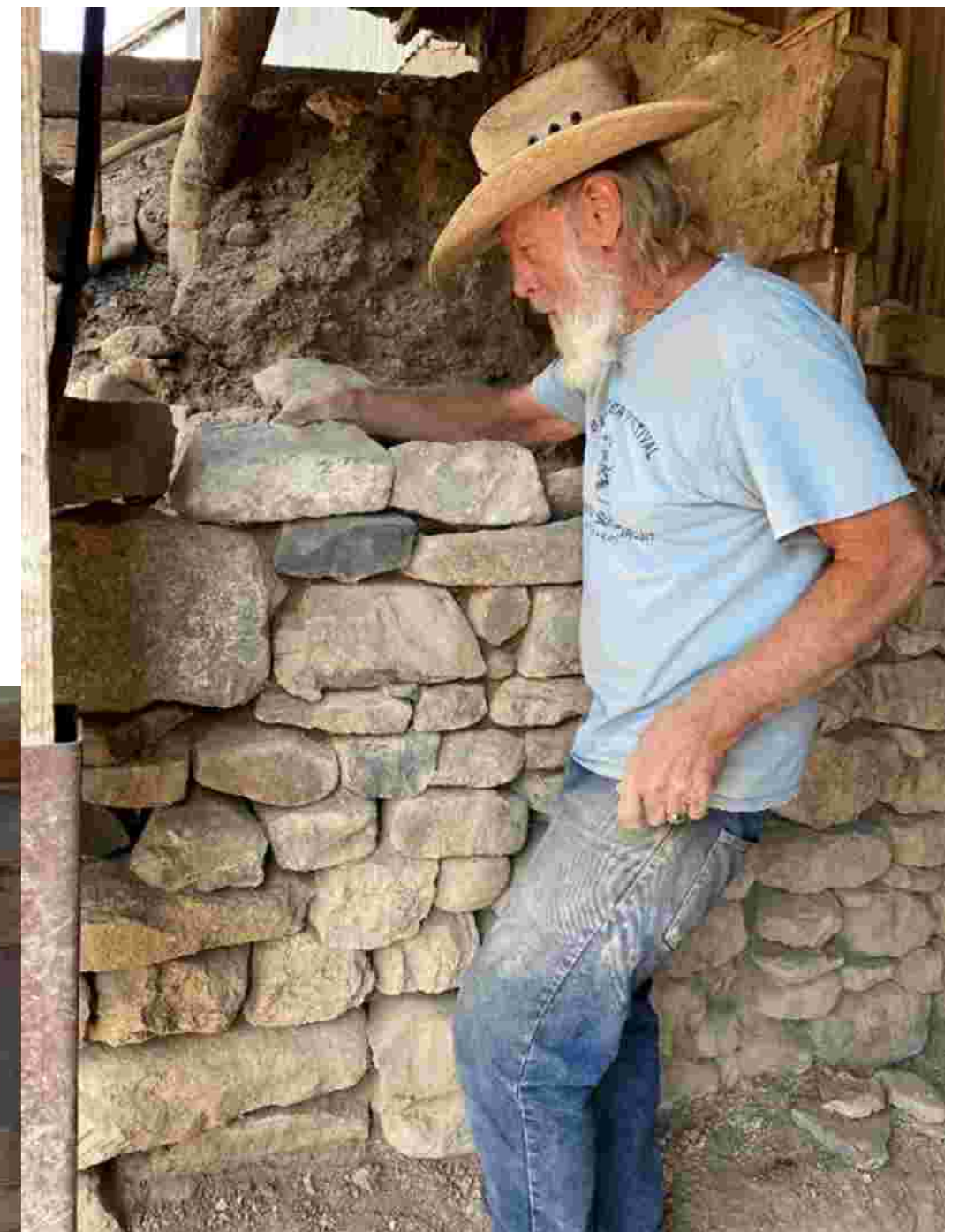


12 x 24 Jaw Crusher and 40HP electric motor.



Larry pans ore from the ore bin above the jaw crusher. He will keep his day job!

Greg and Lisa reconstructed and re-pointed rock wall in 'root cellar'. The rock wall may be an original foundation from the 1860 Kelsey Mill!



John and his quad along with volunteers moved approximately 700 bags of ore from the storage room near the stamp mill motor to lower level of mill in preparation for generator installation. Quad-squad: Bob, Lee, Russ, Larry, John and Don strong-armed many hours! The mill obtained a 50kw generator from Frank Pedlar to provide power to 3-phase stamp mill motor.



Installed wood bridge, donated by Burdick Excavating, over Gold Creek to provide pedestrian traffic to mill from the south end of site.

Connolly Crane Services placed the bridge.

Constructed stairs at the north end of the bridge.





Rebuilding and framing of the south Dazet Mill wall.

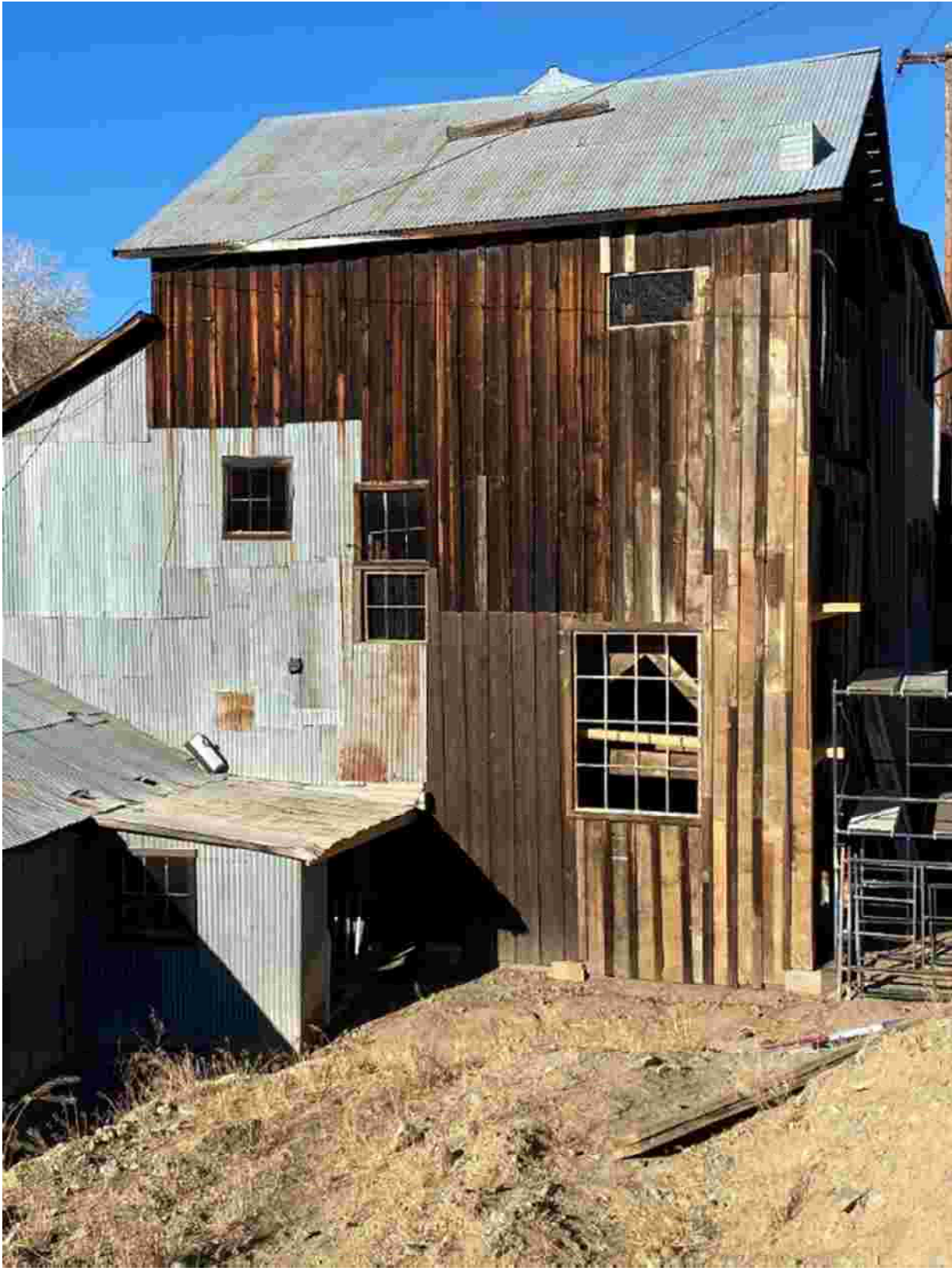
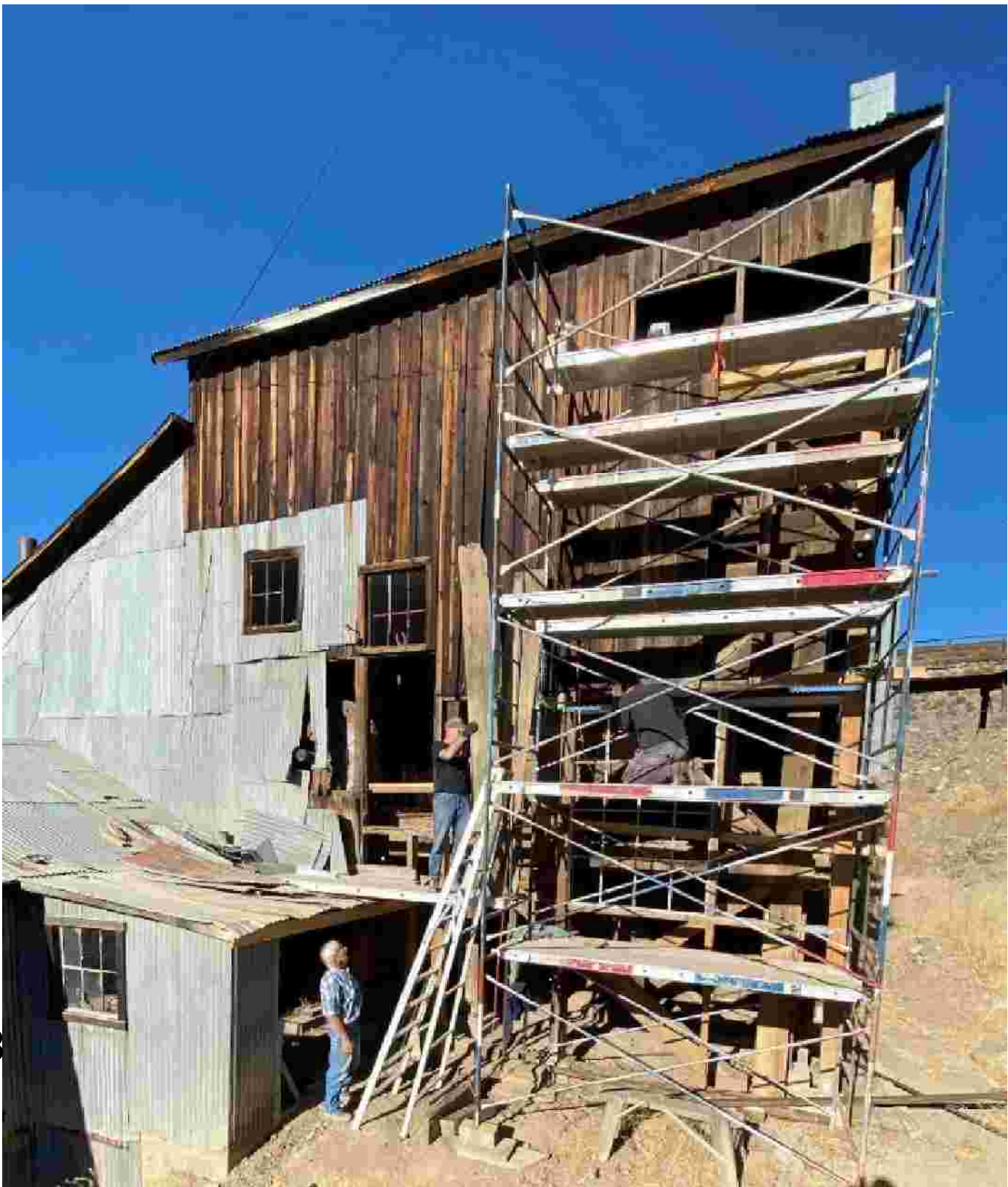
Mark shouts orders to volunteers!

Lee works from top level of scaffold.



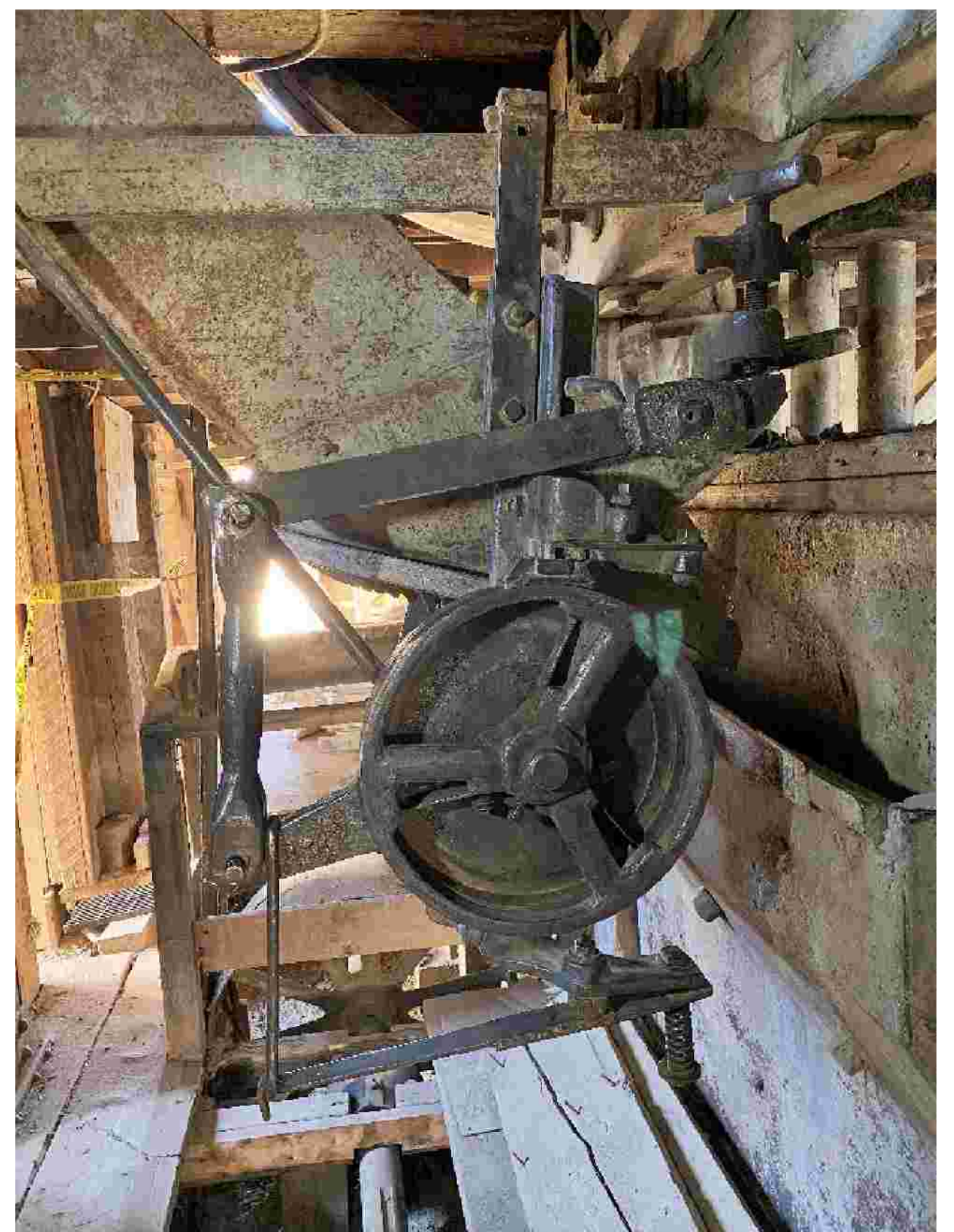
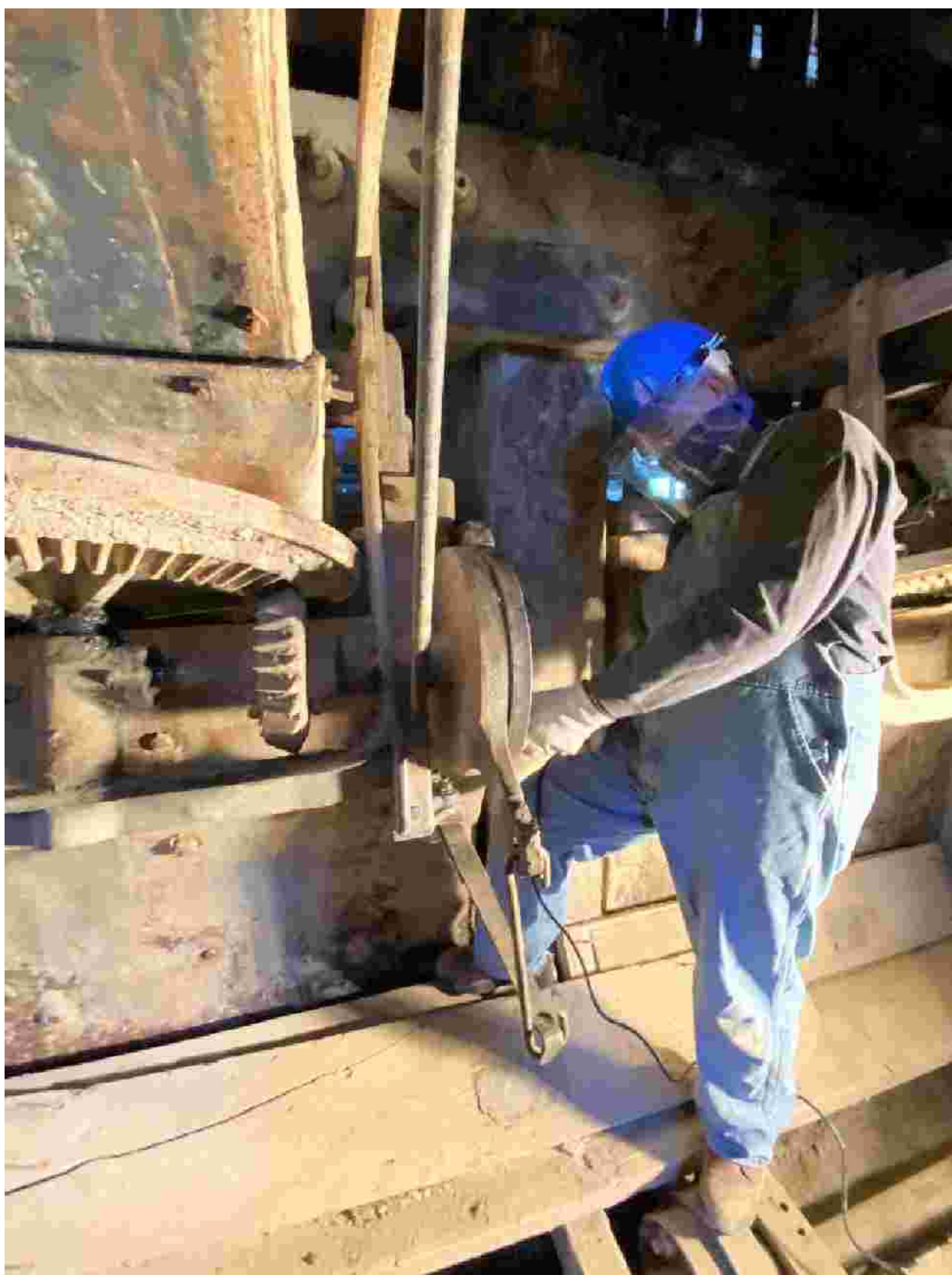
Jeff ripping board for battens.

Larry installing support for siding.



Cleaned-up and inspected 40 HP stamp mill motor, reduction gear box and jack shaft bearings. Rotated the main cam shaft and jack shaft by hand.

The first time they moved since 1959!



Lee cleaning ore feeder for stamp mill battery #4.



Mark constructing sliding door for west side of the tank room.



John & Don preparing 55 HP Ingersoll Rand Oil Engine for move to Donovan Mill.



Brett Stockwell, F & M MAFCO, donated time and equipment to help lift the engine from its former location in preparation for the oil engine move.

Received donations of an 1880's Virginia City desk, oil lamps, historical documents and newspapers.

Printed 1870's large format photo of mills and trestles located immediately west of Donovan mill.



1926 55 HP Ingersoll Rand oil engine, donated by Brad Keife, is moved from Wadsworth to Donovan Mill. Industrial Logistics Services gave us a great deal on the moving cost!



Restoration of Dazet Mill east wall.
Russ, Bob, Larry, Jeff, Don & Elaine restored the
framework for installation of the board & batten.





Jeff removing temporary support straps
for east Dazet wall.

Donovan Mill restoration is nearing the
point where we can operate stamp battery
#4 and crush ore!



Thank you to all the volunteers and businesses that
have worked to bring this conservation project a reality!
Elaine Bergstrom