from NBMG OFR 83-9
See also 83-10 for geochemical results.

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Item 2

BOOTSTRAP DISTRICT

0680 0002

The Bootstrap district is located on the west slope of the Tuscarora Mountains, generally along Boulder Creek north of the Elko-Eureka county line. The district is just to the north of the Lynn district in Eureka County. The area was called the Boulder Creek district from 1953 to about 1960 but became known as the Bootstrap district after the Bootstrap mine became a major gold producer in 1958. Beginning in 1953, the district became an important barite producer, with most of the production coming from the Rossi mine (Smith, 1976).

Although Smith (1976) makes reference to gold placer deposits along Boulder Creek, nothing can be found in the literature concerning these deposits, and the earliest activity in the district may be the antimony production credited to the Bootstrap mine. Lawrence (1963) mentions that one carload of antimony was mined in 1914, hauled to the railroad at Dunphy, but never shipped.

Starting again in 1972, the Bootstrap mine was explored and mined by the Newmont Mining Co. for gold. The deposit is a disseminated occurrence similar to the large Carlin mine to the south in the Lynn district. No mining is now underway at the site, but dumps are being heap-leached. In 1983, a new deposit discovered about one mile northwest of the old Bootstrap was under development by the Dee Gold Mining Company (Cordex). This occurrence, similar geologically to the one at Bootstrap, has announced ore reserves of 2.7 million tons averaging 0.117 ounce per ton gold (Pay Dirt, April 1983). This deposit, known as the Boulder Creek or Dee Mine, is scheduled for production in 1984.

In the Bootstrap mine area, thick-bedded limestones of Devonian age are exposed in a window through the overlying cherts, shales, and limestones of the Ordovician Vinini Formation. The Vinini strata are cut by many steep north-trending faults and intruded by quartz latite to dacite dikes. At Bootstrap, gold occurs, mostly as microscopic particles, along fractures in the dikes and in the cherts and shales near the dikes. According to Bonham (1982), the nearby Boulder Creek deposit is also in upper plate rock. The barite at the Rossi mine also occurs in rocks of the Vinini Formation. The sediments in the mine area are intruded by dikes and are overlain by volcanic tuffs. Several barite units are present, the main one reaching a maximum thickness of 40 feet (Papke, in preparation).

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