

Smith, A.M., 1957  
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Item 73

RESOURCES REPORT

ELKO COUNTY

NEVADA

1957

Report in Elko Co. General File  
0050.0052

The Office Of  
George W. Malone  
United States Senate  
Nevada

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Administrative Assistant

mimographed - 161 pages



**History:** Gold Placers were first mined on 76 Creek in about 1876, and were worked in the Seventies-Eighties, and sporadically until recent years in Pennsylvania Gulch, Union, Gulch, Dry Ravine, and Badger Creek, all lying between 76 Creek and the Bruneau River. More gold was recovered from the numerous small operations than has been reported or recorded. The district was visited by the writer in 1932, and at that time a number of small placering projects were under way, some of which are described in University of Nevada, Bulletin Vol. XXVI, No. 8, cited as reference.

A five-stamp mill was operated at times from 1905 to 1923 at the Prunty Mine on 76 Creek, and is reported to have processed small amounts of gold, silver, copper and antimony. There has been some development at the Graham Mine, a copper-gold prospect near the Prunty.

Contact (Kit Carson, Porter, Salmon River)  
Copper, Silver, Barite

**References:** Schrader, F. C., 1912, "A Reconnaissance of the Jarbidge, Contract and Elk Mountain Mining Districts, Elko County, Nevada." U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 497, p. 99-150.  
Lincoln, F. C., op. cit., p. 40-41  
Schrader, F. C., 1935, "The Contact Mining District, Nevada."  
U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 847-A, 41 pages.  
Granger, A. E., Bell, M. M., et al, op. cit., 1953, Nevada State Bureau of Mines.

**Geology:** Paleozoic sediments cut by granite.

**Location:** Near the Idaho border on Salmon Falls Creek in northeast Elko County, about 50 miles north of Wells, and 30 miles south of Rogerson, Idaho.

**History:** Claims at Contact were first worked for gold, in about 1876. Some Shipments of copper ore were made at intervals for about 50 years. A 5-ton per day copper furnace was built in 1897, but failed. The Delno Mine has been the most productive. F. C. Schrader, in



Bull. 847-A 1935, states that up to 1935 intermittent shipments had amounted to over 300,000 tons of copper ore. Some increased activity in about 1925 resulted after the completion of the Union Pacific Railroad from Twin Falls, Idaho, through Contact to Wells on the Southern Pacific.

The district reached its maximum production in 1916-1918, but had some other peaks in 1928-1930 and 1942-1946. From 1913 to 1949, reported ore shipments amounted to 34,404 tons leaving a gross value of \$702,760. The principal values were in copper and silver, with some lead and gold.

The mining was done within four separate areas, designated as Ellen D. Mountain, Middle Stack Mountain, Blanchard Mountain, and Trout Creek.

Ellen D. Mountain Area. In this area the Nevada Bellevue Copper Mining Company, with 10 claims was the major producer. There are several strong veins in this group, one about 10,000 feet long. Much of the oxidized ore is said to contain about 4 percent copper. A large amount of development work has been done on this group.

The Palo Alto Mine, adjoining the Bellevue on the East is credited with some 1,700 tons of ore since its discovery in 1894.

The Blue Bird Group contains 10 claims, and was discovered in 1884. It has had considerable development work, but production is not stated. Since 1910 about 1000 tons of 6 percent copper ore was shipped.

Other mines in the Ellen D. Mountain area that have produced ore since 1913 are: Copper King, Copper Shield, Silver Circle, Mammoth; and Bonanza.

China Mountain Area. This area is 5 miles south of the town of Contact and on the east side of Salmon falls Creek. Early work here was by Chinese about 1876. Nothing more until about 1890.



The War Eagle Mine in 1895-1896 produced eight railroad carloads of ore that averaged about 24 percent silica. One of these carloads is said to have averaged 33 percent copper, unusually high grade ore.

Blanchard Mountain Area. This area adjoins China Mountain on the east. It centers at Blanchard Mountain and is some 4 miles in diameter. Blanchard mountain reaches an elevation of 8,800 feet. There seems to be no record of production in this area.

Middle Stack Mountain and Trout Creek Areas. These lie in the northeast part of Contact District. Middle Stack Mountain is six miles northeast of Contact, and the area extends east across Trout Creek some six miles.

The Boston Mine here is said to have made small shipments of high grade copper ore prior to 1926, and there had been considerable development work up to 1930. A shoot of cerargyrite ore 6 inches wide, running 300 ounces of silver per ton was found at a depth of 90 feet in a shaft.

Recent Mining. At the Marshall Mine, owned by Marshall Brothers, a number of miners were employed during the winter of 1956-57. During 1956 ore shipments were made.

Barite. Some 50 miles north of Wells, and in or near the Contact District, are the Jungo Barite Claims, located on Dry Creek. On March 7, 1957 the Nevada State Journal announced a sale of 7 barite claims by Herb Butler to the American Colloid Company for \$35,000. A road 24 feet wide and 4 miles long has been constructed to the property by Hunt Construction Company of Elko. Pocahontas Core Drilling Company of New Mexico conducted both core and diamond drilling at the site with promising results. The barite is of high purity with a specific gravity of 4.20. Active mining of the deposit proposed by the purchaser about May, 1957. There is a strong market demand for barite in the manufacture of paint and fertilizer, and in medical diagnosis by use of the X-Ray. More recently, barium metal is



coming into additional demand as shielding material against atomic radiation. Recently barite deposits have been developed in or near Contact District, and shipments have been made. One property is owned or managed by Messrs. Martin, Saunders and Butler of Elko. The ore is trucked to a railroad shipping point by Interstate Truck Lines.

It is reported that Ed Hunter shipped a quantity of high grade fine white barite from this area to Wells during 1956.