

DEEPHOLE DISTRICT

LOCATION

The Deephole district lies in northern Washoe County, directly north of Gerlach, and encompasses the mines and prospects of the Granite Range.

HISTORY

Gold ore was reportedly discovered in the district in 1908 but no production was reported from any property until 1938, when the Mountain View Mine was discovered. Total recorded production from the district is \$92,453, essentially all of which was produced from the Mountain View Mine (taken from Bonham, 1969, p. 59).

GEOLOGIC SETTING

A good summary of the geology of the Granite range, in which the Deephole district is located, is given by Bonham (Bonham, 1969, p. 59) and it will not be discussed here.

ORE DEPOSITS

Of the five known properties in the district, four were visited, one was not. Of the four properties visited, samples were collected at three and pictures taken at two.

Mountain View Mine: Located on the Squaw Valley 7 1/2 minute topographic map, in the SE/4, S5, T34N, R22E. No pictures were taken and no sample collected. The whole district has about the same character and the mineralization has been fairly well documented by Bonham (Bonham, 1969, p. 59 and Overton, 1947, p. 61). Another item of note is that in Bonham's work this property is discussed in the text portion as the Mountain View Mine, but, on the Mineral Resources Map it is referred to as the Lakeview Mine. These are one in the same mine but there is no cross reference to indicate this fact.

Basic geology in the immediate mine area is of contact metamorphic character. The metamorphic unit is a black schistose hornfels containing quartz and calcite vein material. The intrusive unit is a granodiorite. Mineralization is associated with the vein material and lying on the dumps was a fair amount of copper oxide material. Bonham (op. cit.) states that this property produced over \$75,000 worth of ore. Most of this was gold but that something over \$10,000 was in silver. Minor amounts of copper and lead were also produced.

Workings observed consisted of two adits, both partially open, both trend east. The lower adit is the longer of the two and it may be upwards of a 1,000 feet in length(?). The upper adit appeared to be about 200 feet in length. At the south edge of the upper adit there's a sort of "shaft"/open cut. Bonham (op. cit.) claims that there are several hundred feet of drifts, winzes, and raises along the vein zone at this property.

There are several maps in the Bureau's Mining District Files section on this property which shows the extent(?) and layout of the underground workings.

Silver Bell Mine: Located on the Squaw Valley 7 1/2 minute topographic map, in the NE/4, S8, T32N, R22E. This places it a little over 1/4 mile south-southeast of the Mountain View Mine. Workings at the time the property was visited consisted of two adits and a few small cuts, above the upper adit, that are spread out along the slope of the hill. The lower adit was open, trends approximately N80°E and appeared to be several hundred feet long. The upper adit was also open, trends approximately N87°E and appeared to be a few hundred feet long. The upper adit is approximately 200 feet in elevation above the lower adit.

The deposit can be classified as contact metamorphic. Principal rock units consist of a black hornfels associated with a granodiorite intrusive. The dumps from both adits are principally black hornfels and it appears that neither adit reached the contact with the granodiorite. Dump material from the upper adit contains a small amount of white quartz and an even smaller amount of rhyolitic dike(?) material. It is thought that the quartz is probably associated with this dike(?). There may possibly have been some small production from this mine but no records of such are known.

Sample #2409 was collected at this property and picture #9 was taken here.

Mountain View Tungsten Prospect: Located on the Squaw Valley 7 1/2 minute topographic map in the SE/4, S8, T34N, R22E. The property lies about 3/4 of a mile south-southeast of the Silver Bell Mine. Again, as with the Mountain View Mine, there is a problem with names with this property. In Bonham's text (op. cit.) on the discussion of this property it is referred to as the Mountain View Tungsten Prospect. On his Mineral Resources map it is referred to as the Lakeview tungsten prospect. No cross-reference or explanation is given. Gianella (Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology Mining District files #311) refers to this property as the Nash Claims.

According to Bonham (op. cit.) at the time of his visit to the property, circa early 1960's(?), "the workings ... consisted of four open cuts, none more than 20 feet in length, which explore a zone approximately 60 feet wide of interlayered schistose metavolcanics, marble, tactite, and silicated limestone ...". At the time of the current visit these open cuts could still be seen but were badly sloughed in. In addition to these cuts a small, open adit has been driven (after Bonham's visit). It trends N60°E and may be approximately a 100 feet long. Heavily iron-stained hornfels and quartz make up the dump. Sample #2408 was collected here.

Mineralization as described by Bonham (op. cit.), consists of scheelite, pyrite, and chalcopyrite. The scheelite occurs as disseminations within tactite and in sugary quartz veins which cut the tactite. Bonham (op. cit.) visually estimated grades in excess of 1% WO₃ in some places. The pyrite and chalcopyrite occur as disseminations within the tactite.

Copper King Prospect: Located on the Squaw Valley 7 1/2 minute topographic map, approximately in the north corner of S16 and 17, T34N, R22E. It's a little over 1/3 mile south east of the Mountain View Tungsten prospect.

Development consists of a "cat" road up the side of the mountain which terminates just beyond a small pendant. There may have been a short

adit driven into the pendant(?). If so it's caved. A small pit has been blasted into the top edge of the pendant/granodiorite contact. The pendant proper is small, being about 50 feet in width and approximately 200 feet in vertical extent. The "cat" road exposes what appears to be the lower edge of the pendant and, minor digging and blasting has opened up the surficial outcrop. The pendant proper is a schistose hornfels enclosed by granodiorite. The obvious mineralization is copper oxides. These are fairly abundant and occur along fractures in both the hornfels and granodiorite. However, most of the mineralization seems to be in the granodiorite along the contact with the hornfels. Of the two vertical contacts exposed, the north contact area has the greatest concentration of copper oxides. There was also some white, iron-stained, quartz vein material lying on the surface and in the "dump" material but none was observed in place.

Picture #8 and sample #2407 were taken and collected here.

Cottonwood Creek Prospect: Located on the Banjo 7 1/2 minute topographic map, in the SW corner, S36,T35N,R22E. This area was not visited during the current program as the road was washed out and it wasn't feasible to walk in and examine the prospect. Bonham (op. cit.) has a small write-up on this property which is quoted verbatim: "Several long-idle prospects are located in a pendant of re-crystallized limestone at the head of Cottonwood Creek. Several shallow shafts and prospect pits have been sunk on narrow veins in the limestone. The vein material consists largely of a mixture of iron oxides and calcite with minor amounts of malachite and no visible sulfide minerals. According to old residents of Gerlach, a small amount of silver ore was produced from these old workings, but there is no recorded production".

SELECTED REFERENCES

- Bonham, H. F., and Papke, K. G. (1969) Geology and mineral deposits of Washoe and Storey Counties, Nevada: Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology Bulletin 70, 139 p.
- Lincoln, F. C. (1923) Mining districts and mineral resources of Nevada, p. 234.
- Nevada Bureau of Mines; mining district files #311.
- Overton, T. D. (1947) Mineral resources of Douglas, Ormsby, and Washoe Counties, Nevada: Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology Bulletin 46, 91 p.