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Lincoln Co. General
Lincoln County
Don Dale District

DON DALE DISTRICT

Item 11

The Don Dale district is used in this report as the name of a mining area at the north end of the Groom Range that formerly was included with the unrelated Tem Puite district lying 10 miles to the northeast (Tschanz and Pampeyan 1970, p. 174) The district includes several prospects, the Don Dale mine which has a small production of lead-silver ore, and the Andies prospect which has yielded very little mercury but contains a known reserve of low grade ore.

ANDIES PROSPECT

Other names ----- Andies group, May Day and Shendell claims, and WM
and UC fractions.
Location ----- S25 and 36, T4S, R55E
Map ----- Tempiute Mtn., 1:62,500
Ownership ----- H. E. Brodsky (1977)
Discovery ----- 1919 by C. A. Anderson
Production ----- 3 flasks
Geologic type ---- Volcanic

The Andies property, consisting at various times of up to 30 Andies claims and a few with other names, is at an altitude of about 6,200 feet in the northeastern end of the Groom Range. It is readily accessible by an unpaved road branching west from State Highway 25 less than a mile north of the turnoff to the Lincoln mine in the Tempiute district. (9)

Cinnabar is reported to have been found in the Andies area in 1919 by C. A. Anderson who did not stake the ground until 1954. In 1955, after locating additional claims, Anderson and his partner R. R. Robinson leased their property to J. H. Smith and Lowell Bonnett. In 1955, Smith and Bonnett subleased the property to the Western Mercury and Uranium Corp., who are credited with a production of three flasks of mercury recovered by retorting in February 1956. This is the only recorded production from the area. In late 1955 and early 1956 the Cordero Mining Company evaluated the property by sampling a 140-foot trench, 140-foot inclined adit, and sinking and sampling a 31-foot shaft put down to follow a 45-foot churn drill hole. Later in 1956 the ground was leased to the Mullen-Buckley Uranium Corporation who employed the Colorado Exploration Co. to further evaluate the property. The latter, after putting down 67 rotary drill holes with an aggregate length of 4,218 feet and obtaining many assays from numerous pits and trenches, reported the presence of a thinly covered blanket-like ore body containing 45,000 tons of proven ore averaging 3.37lbs/ton and 24,000 tons of probable and possible ore of slightly better grade. The total mercury included in all classes of these

reserves adds to a little less than 4,000 flasks. In 1957, the U.S. Bureau of Mines, on the basis of 28 check samples cut to evaluate a DMEA proposal, concluded that indicated and inferred ore amounted to about half this quantity with an average grade of 3.0 lbs/ton. Owing to unfavorable economic conditions this ore has not been mined. The Mullen-Buckey Uranium Corp. held their lease until at least 1961; the Imperial Crown Mining Corp. leased the property in 1965-66; and in 1967 the Leber Mining Co. did additional testing. In 1971, title to the property apparently passed to H. E. Brodsky of Philadelphia who held it until at least 1977.

The rocks of the area are Cambrian limestone unconformably overlain by several hundred feet of Tertiary andesite capped by rhyolite. The volcanic rocks in the zone of mercury mineralization are pervasively fractured, argillized, and bleached nearly white, whereas elsewhere they are harder, darker colored, and coated with yellow-brown stains of iron oxides. A small intrusive of Tertiary granite is mapped about a mile west of the Andies deposit by Tschanz and Pampeyan (1970).

Cinnabar occurs as minute crystals scattered through the altered rhyolite, locally in thin irregular quartz veinlets, and as coatings on fracture surfaces. Accompanying minerals include pyrite, limonite and jarosite resulting from its alteration, calcite, gypsum, and unidentified clay minerals. The ore body that has been developed by drilling and underground exploration is nearly flat, 300 feet long, 100 feet wide, and has a variable thickness that reaches a maximum of 45 feet and averages 15 feet. Although the average grade is reported to be about 3 lbs/ton a few samples assayed 15-40 lbs/ton. Good values were obtained just above the limestone, but assays from drill holes penetrating the limestone beneath the ore contained very low values.

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The property contains a known reserve of ore of modest grade that might be mined by open pit methods when the price is high, but the erratic distribution of higher grade material suggests that small scale mining and retort operation is not likely to be successful.

ANW CLAIMS

Other names ----- Perhaps includes PA, PB, PC, PD placer claims
Location ----- S1,T5S,R55E
Ownership ----- Unknown
Discovery ----- 1965, A. D. Thompson and D. F. Miller
Production ----- None

As many as 60 claims of the AMW group were staked in the area south and west of the Andies mine in the middle to late 1960's when the price of mercury was high. Most of these were located and explored by D. F. Miller for the Southern Union Production Company, but the latest recorded work, done in 1970, was for the Leber Mining Co. Exploration consists of several long, very shallow, bulldozer cuts, reported drilling of unknown extent, and IP geophysical work.

Most of the area is underlain by Cambrian Prospect Mountain quartzite, which although locally iron stained appears to be little mineralized. In our brief examination we saw no evidence of a serious attempt at mining and no cinnabar.