

Hermit Group

The Hermit group of six unpatented claims and one fraction, formerly included in the Donnelly and Reeder properties, is owned by U. J. Thrasher and associates of Gerlach, Nev.

Development work consists of eight adits, which, with lateral workings, total about 2,000 feet. Equipment consists of a mill, erected by Raser, and several camp buildings. The mill is equipped with a jaw-crusher (8 by 12 inches), 5-stamp battery (1,050-pound stamps), Diester table, and a 60-horsepower, 1-cylinder, gasoline engine. Mill equipment is in poor condition and of little value. Water for milling and domestic use is available from several springs in the vicinity.

The ore occurs as lenses in narrow veins in granodiorite intruded into slate and quartzite. The principal veins strike northwest and southeast, dipping 30° northeast, and they vary in width from a few inches to a maximum of 2 1/2 feet. The gangue is chiefly iron-stained quartz. The gold is disseminated through the quartz in fine particles associated with a small amount of silver.

DUTCH FLAT DISTRICT

The Dutch Flat, also known as the Florence district, is 18 miles northeast of Winnemucca and 18 miles north of Golconda on the west slope of the Hot Spring range. Placer gold was discovered here in 1893 by Fred G. Wendel. For several years following the discovery of placer gold about 20 men were employed in working the gravel in rockers, with good results. In the first year production is said to have been \$75,000. Water for placer operations was hauled from a well in Spring Canyon, about 1 mile distant. The production of placer gold has been about \$100,000.

Wendel Group

The Wendel group of 11 placer claims, owned by Fred G. Wendel, includes nearly all the placer ground in the district. In 1904 a company organized in Salt Lake City, called the Dutch Flat Gold Mining Co., attempted to work the placers with power equipment. Twenty acres sampled by the company are reported to have contained 375,000 cubic yards of gravel averaging 31 cents per cubic yard at the old price of \$20.67 per ounce of gold. The average depth of the gravel is 15 feet. Equipment installed consisted of a trommel, sluice, and tailings elevator. The gravel was mined and transported to the machines by dragline scraper. This venture was unsuccessful as the company could not obtain an adequate water supply for the washing plant. In 1909 and 1910 the ground was leased by Wendel and associates to Chinese placer miners. In later years the placer operations have been confined to small-scale activity either by Wendel or lessees. In 1937 this property was optioned to a Reno group.

The placer area is about 1 1/2 miles long and ranges in width from 300 to 2,000 feet. There is no regular channel wherein the gold is concentrated, and good values have been found on the hillside adjacent to the ravine as well as in the ravine itself. Over 100 shafts have been sunk on the property in former operations. These shafts vary in depth from 6 to 22 feet and average about 12 feet to bedrock. The bedrock is composed of schist, rhyolite, and granite.

The gravels are a mixture of detrital material consisting of angular rock fragments and sand, which in places is cemented with clay. The largest rock fragments are less than 6 inches in diameter. The greatest concentration of gold is on bedrock, the pay streaks varying from 6 inches to 3 1/2 feet thick. Both fine and coarse gold are present. The coarse gold is rough and angular and some of it is attached to a quartz matrix, indicating that it has not traveled far. The largest nugget ever found in the placer had a value of \$180. A large amount of black sand and some cinnabar is associated with the gold. The gold has an average fineness of 940.

The exploitation of the placer with power equipment depends largely upon the development of an adequate water supply. Probably water can be obtained from wells sunk in the little Humboldt River Valley, a short distance east of the placer ground. This water would have to be pumped to the placer area.

GOLCONDA DISTRICT

The Golconda district is in the vicinity of Golconda, a station on the Southern Pacific and Western Pacific Railroads. W. C. Gregg made the first locations in this area and organized the district in 1866. Although a considerable number of claims were located in the early days, none of them passed beyond the prospecting stage of development. The Golconda Gold Ledge Mining Co. has been the principal property in this area.

Manganese associated with tungsten was discovered 4 miles east of Golconda in 1885 and prospected for precious metals with discouraging results. The only production on the manganese claims is three carloads of manganese ore shipped to San Francisco in 1893 by J. A. Langwith of Winnemucca, and at least one carload shipped in 1913 by the Noble Electric Steel Co.

Golconda Gold Ledge Mining Co.

The Golconda Gold Ledge Mining Co., formerly known as the Golconda Nevada Mining Co. comprises two patented and one unpatented claims 2 miles south of Golconda. The company is controlled by a group from Kansas City, Mo. The last work was done on the property in 1917. According to company's records, from 1908 to 1915 13,705 tons of ore were mined having an assay value of \$90,749. From this amount of ore, \$65,632.33 worth of bullion was recovered, according to mint returns. A large part of the production was made by lessees.