

Gold

Scouting report 1/26/66

NEVADA

CLARK COUNTY

ELDORADO CANYON (NELSON) DISTRICT

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Item 4

I scouted the district January 26, 1966 with Rich Chamberlain in his jeep and camper; most of it, and all of the larger mines, is accessible by car.

References: Nevada B. of M. Bull 62, "Geology and Mineral Deposits of Clark County, Nevada", Longwell, et. al., 1965
U.S.G.S. Professional Paper 374-E, "Reconnaissance Geology between Lake Mead and Davis Dam, Arizona-Nevada", Longwell, 1963
Automobile Club of Southern California, "Desert Area" map, C 10610, Map Number 2217
USGS Topographic Quad, Nelson

General: Main properties lie in an east-west zone about five miles long and a mile or two wide, according to Bull 62, Plate 2. East end of zone is in TK granite, according to Bull 62, but according to the older and more detailed PP 374-E is at the east end of a mass of Tertiary intrusive rocks. From PP 374-E I would say that the whole district lies along the north edge of a single intrusive mass.

At the east end of the district is the Jubilee Mine, with the Techatticup Mine half a mile west of it. The country rock here looks to me like andesite, very thoroughly and wide-spreadly propylitized; PP 374-E calls it monzonite porphyry. Jubilee has stopes to surface 10' to 15' wide and a hundred or so feet long, striking easterly and dipping about 40 south. The vein matter is just propylitized rock, somewhat sheared, locally with coarse very irregular calcite filling between breccia blocks 1' or so in diameter. Footwall of vein is a slip, hanging wall apparently fairly regular but I could not see any structure in it. There is no iron staining to speak of. The hanging wall is perhaps very lightly silicified (hardened with no visible quartz) for 20' above the vein. All in all, the vein looks now as though it must have been very inconspicuous originally, though outcrops are very good.

Did not look at Techatticup except in passing on road -- has cyanide plant and tailings pond with 100,000 or more tons tailings (some from Jubilee, which has no sign of a mill?). A couple of narrow stopes to surface behind plant, also in propylitized rock with virtually no iron staining. South of these two (Techatticup and Jubilee) half a mile or so the map shows a couple more mines credited with several hundred thousand dollars production, which we did not see. From the size of the stopes, Jubilee must have made much more than the \$10,000 production it is credited with.

West of Nelson we visited the Wall Street Mine, credited with more than \$1,800,000. A Mrs. B. Gresh lives in a small house just below the mine, and gives permission to prow around -- little old lady, paints, lived there many years, owns claim her house is on, and some others in district. Wall St. she says is owned by Russian jews who have put \$50,000 into it and will not turn loose of it without being guaranteed that back. Mine is much like Jubilee -- similar-sized stopes, striking about east, in propylitized andesite with very little iron stain or quartz, though hanging wall is mildly hardened, mostly dipping about 30 south. At the west and east ends, I get the impression the vein was arched, and should be found under the alluvium north of the surface stopes. According to Mrs. Gresh, the deepest workings are 110', a little below water level.

The map of Bull. 62 shows a couple more relatively major mines west and southwest of Wall Street, but we did not find these, unless one of them is the site of a present "Cat Ranch", which we visited and talked to the lady running -- she has 39 Siamese cats and her husband was formerly recorder for the district, so allegedly knows more about it than anyone else -- he was absent. Mrs. Gresh to the north claimed the cat ranch people are jumping some of her claims.

We continued west beyond Wall St. a couple of miles, all in similar andesite, no so propylitized. Near the top of the mountain (hill) range, about two miles west of Wall St., there is an area about 300 yards in diameter in which the andesite is pervasively iron-stained, but no silicification and no old diggings. Half a mile or so southwest of this, almost to the good road leading to an FAA VOR station, we came upon some bulldozing and minor hand diggings -- from the signs, looked like the Cat Ranch people -- with a couple of buckets of iron-stained material containing some quartz, with visible fine gold in some. This is an area generally showing no sign of mineralization other than that in the cuts -- all andesite. All this country west of the Wall Street is andesite, locally ironstained over areas less than 50' in diameter, locally silicified, pretty much all partly propylitized, but with very little diggings.

South of Wall St, ~~between~~ the ridge between it and the Cat Ranch, is a big mass of volcanics, which at the time I thought overlay the intrusives. PP 374-E says they are invaded by the intrusives. They are strongly altered, with much heavy iron-staining, though little sign of pre-existing sulfides. Contain no diggings at all.

A mile or more south of the west end of Eldorado Canyon is a group of four mines shown on Plate 2 of Bull 62 with production of more than \$100,000 in lead-silver, reportedly from galeniferous quartz veins. We could find no more than very weak iron-stained zones with traces of quartz in the gneissic country rock. Perhaps most of the productiveness were behind a gate with very ferocious signs warning off trespassers, by one J. J. Holton. This area is known as the Knob Hill district, as sort of subdistrict of Eldorado Canyon. At the west edge of outcrops in this area we found a couple of old diggings on very unaltered-looking gneiss with traces of copper stain.

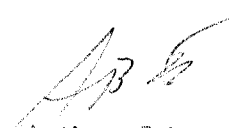
From the maps of Bull. 62 it looks like Knob Hill is on the north side of a pediment a couple miles wide, with another lead-silver mine on the south side, and granite projecting into it from the east. On the ground, the picture does not look so pretty -- the pediment is a couple miles north-south, but may be only half a mile east-west, and the rocks to the north are but very weakly mineralized at best, while the granite to the east is fresh. My idea of a possible porphyry copper on the pediment does not look too hot.

Ore Potential: The Wall Sp. Mine looks like a very good bet for a fair-sized gold mine. It seems highly unlikely that the ore quit at only 100' depth. The northern limb of vein, inferred under cover of alluvium in the campsite, might be open pit mine, though probably not for more than a couple hundred thousand tons. Possibly there is an insuperable problem in dealing with the owners, and the grade may be low.

Overall, the Eldorado Canyon district is typical epithermal Tertiary precious-metal mineralization, though the sparseness of both sulfides and silicification is striking -- the pervasive propylitization is more common. It seems possible that much of the gold is too fine to pan, and extensive assaying might turn up an inconspicuous deposit passed over by the old timers. Geochemical work on arsenic might to very well -- it wouldn't be difficult to test it out.

The district lies parallel to and very close to the edge of Tertiary volcanics that ~~MP 298 xxxxxxxx~~ PP 374-E says are intruded by the host rocks of the known deposits -- and therefore were also available as possible host rocks. The volcanics are intensely altered, in part, though it looks to me like the alteration found in many volcanics, not related to mineralization. There are no diggings in volcanics, that I saw. Nonetheless, it seems to me these volcanics are worth investigating, perhaps with geochemistry.

Conclusions: The district looks worth further work. First step should be rather cursory mapping on aerial photos, for major contacts and distribution of known mineralization; at the same time, testing to see if geochemical techniques will work on known mineralization. This should then be followed up by widespread geochemical work, particularly in the volcanics and in the andesite west of Wall St. The objective would be a gold-silver mine, at least a fairly large vein-type one, and hopefully something that could be open-pitted.



Arthur Baker III

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