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Robinette (June group)

— ELK MOUNTAIN DIST.

The June group of 11 claims, owned by John Robinette, is in the Elk Mountain district, in secs. 9 and 10, T. 43 N., R. 61 E., about 8.4 miles by poor road north from the O'Neill Ranch post office. From the ranch, a well-graded road leads 31.5 miles to U. S. Highway 93 at a point 13 miles south of Contact. Tactite, with sporadic tungsten and molybdenum mineralization, is found along a fairly straight intrusive contact between granite and limestone. The thickness of tactite ranges widely. The largest body, on the June No. 1 and June No. 3 claims, is 1,500 feet long and at least 50 feet wide. Although particles of scheelite are sparsely scattered throughout, only small portions of the tactite contain as much as 0.25 percent of WO<sub>3</sub>. Molybdenite also is scattered through the rock, but it is more prominent in narrow quartz veins less than 2 inches wide containing garnet, pyrite, and chalcopyrite. The content of molybdenite in any sizeable mass of tactite is estimated to be only 0.1 to 0.2 percent.

## Memorandum

### Robinette Molybdenum-Tungsten Deposit Elko County, Nevada

S. Warren Hobbs

July 15, 1943

#### Location, Accessibility, and Ownership

The Robinette property (June group of claims) is in northern Elko County, Nevada, in secs. 9 and 10, T. 46 N., R. 61 E. It is at the east base of Elk Mountain, about 20 miles ~~due~~ west and 53 miles by road from the town of Contact, Nevada. The claims may be reached by a new, well surfaced C.C.C. road which branches west from U. S. Highway No. 93 approximately 13 miles south of Contact. This road leads to the O'Neil's Ranch Post Office, a distance of 31.5 miles from the highway. From O'Neil's Ranch, a narrow, very rough, dirt road, with many washouts, leads northwest for 8.4 miles to the claims. The property is difficult to find and before attempting to visit it, it would be advisable to communicate with Mr. Fred Shrits of Hailey, Idaho, who kindly showed the writer to the deposit. Two cabins on the property afford accommodation for over-night visits. The nearest railroad is parallel to Highway 93, 40 miles from the deposit.

The property consists of 11 unpatented claims, only two of which, the June Nos. 1 and 3, show molybdenum or tungsten mineralization. (See attached sketch map). These claims are held by John Robinette, Box 1104, Boise, Idaho. Fred Shrits, of Hailey, Idaho is active in attempts to dispose of the property for Robinette.

#### Development

The workings consist of 6 small open adits two of which are 65 and 50 feet long, respectively, and the others 25 feet or less in length, and a number of open cuts and trenches. A small shaft 30 feet deep at the mouth of the 50-foot adit is now filled with waste rock and several old adits, driven for gold, are completely caved. There is no equipment on the property. Outcrops in the area are fairly good, and, with the exposures in adits and pits, furnish considerable information on the geology of the deposit.

A small stream from the mountain west of the deposit flows by the cabins and should afford a limited year-round supply of water for domestic and mining needs.

#### Geology

The deposit is in relatively low country at the eastern base of Elk Mountain and is bordered on the east by a broad alluvial flat. A series of sedimentary rocks, including some limestones and impure limestones, has been folded and invaded by a granitic stock or batholith. Younger basaltic flows rest unconformably upon both sedimentary rocks and granites. Small silicic dikes, probably related to the granite, cut the limestone series.

#### Ore Deposit

The ore minerals, molybdenite and scheelite, occur in a lens of tactite formed at the contact of the granite and the limestones. The granite contact on the property strikes about N. 45--55 degrees E. nearly parallel to and only

about 200 feet above the base of the range front. The dip of this contact was not definitely determined but it is probably to the east, in the direction of the hill slope and nearly parallel to the bedding of the limestone. Small lenses of tactite have been developed wherever the granite adjoins the limestone. The lens of tactite on the June Nos. 1 and 3 claims is much wider and more continuous than others in the area. This lens is approximately 1500 feet long and at least 50 feet wide at the north end of the June No. 1 claim where an adit penetrates it for that distance and still shows tactite in the face. The tactite, however, is not uniform and contains remnants of unreplaced limestone.

Molybdenite:-- Small specks of molybdenite occur throughout the tactite, but appreciable amounts are found only in the vicinity of the 50-foot adit near the south end of the deposit. The molybdenite occurs for the most part in narrow veins which are nearly at right angles to the granite contact. These veins, ranging in width from narrow fractures to 2 inches, are composed of abundant quartz associated with some garnet, iron and copper sulfide minerals, and molybdenite. Several of the veins feathered out into the tactite. Beyond the termination of the veins the molybdenite is finely disseminated through the garnet rock. In the face of the 50-foot adit the molybdenite veins are spaced at intervals of from one to two feet. In surface exposures and in short adits above the 50-foot adit the molybdenite is less abundant. Molybdenite was not observed in comparable quantities at any other places on the property. Assays of samples of the ore are reported to have indicated 10, 1, 0.1, 0.3 & 0.7 percent  $\text{MoO}_3$ . Estimates based upon visual observation place the average grade for any sizable volume of tactite at 0.1 to 0.2 percent  $\text{MoO}_3$ .

Scheelite:-- Small particles of scheelite are sparsely disseminated throughout the tactite. The two areas of greatest scheelite concentration are near the 50-foot adit, and in the valley of the creek near the camp. The average of the best ore taken from the 50-foot adit and <sup>the</sup> mouth of the shaft is estimated as only 0.25 percent  $\text{WO}_3$ . Most of the scheelite-bearing rock would contain only 0.2 percent  $\text{WO}_3$  or less.

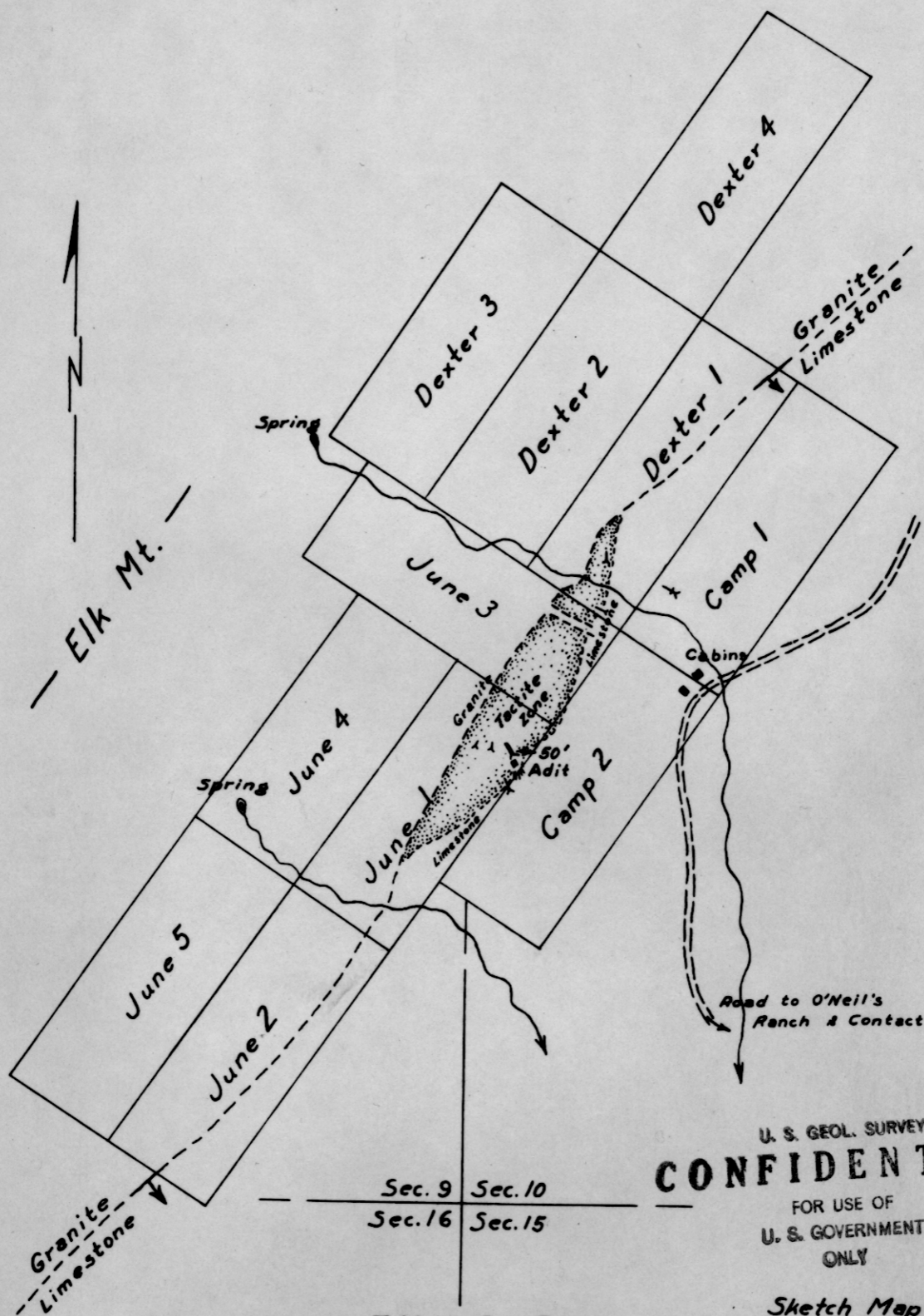
#### Reserves and outlook

There is a possible total of 500,000 tons of tactite rock. However, only small, scattered lenses appear to contain sufficient molybdenite and scheelite to be considered as ore. Because of the relative inaccessibility of the property, it would be uneconomic to ship the low grade ore from this deposit. The tonnage of possible milling ore in sight is too small to warrant the construction of a mill unless an extensive exploratory program were undertaken to determine a definite reserve.

#### Recommendations

This deposit is possibly worth a visit by a molybdenum specialist if convenient, but it does not warrant any special effort. No other recommendations are made.





Sec. 9 Sec. 10  
Sec. 16 Sec. 15

T.46 N., R.61 E.  
Mt. Diablo B.M.

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*Sketch Map of  
Robinette Molybdenum-Tungsten  
Group of Claims*

*Elko County, Nevada*

*From Map by S.M. Ballard*