

1920 0016

(312) Item 16

Mining District: JUMBO DISTRICT (WEST COMSTOCK DISTRICT)
MALENA DISTRICT (WASHOE VALLEY DISTRICT)
STEAMBOAT SPRINGS DISTRICT
GEIGER CLAY PTF
(Gold, Zinc, Lead, Silver, Copper,
Tungsten, Arsenic, Mercury, Clay,
Silica, Pumiceous Rhyolite, Volcanic
Cinder, Geothermal Resources)

XX-31-1
Au, Zn, Pb, Ag,
Cu, W, As, Hg,
clay, silica,
pumiceous rhyolite
volcanic cinder,
geothermal re-
sources

T. 16-17-18 N., R. 19-20 E.
Washoe County, Nevada
USGS Mt. Rose 15-min. quadrangle (1950) and
Virginia City 15-min. quadrangle (1950)

GENERAL BACKGROUND

In the following discussion each district will be treated separately.

I. Jumbo District

The Jumbo area is located east of Washoe Lake on the western slope of the Virginia Range, approximately 3 miles west of Virginia City. Significant mining activity did not begin in the Jumbo area until the early 1900's, but by 1908 several mines were producing gold and silver ore. The main period of mining activity and production was between the years 1908 and 1911. Intermittent placer and small-scale lode mining was carried on between the years 1912 to 1948. Since 1948 no production has been recorded from the district. Recorded production from the district totals over 8,000 tons of lode material grossing approximately \$31,000. These figures are incomplete, but total production in the area probably does not exceed \$200,000 (2).

GEOLOGICAL AND TECHNICAL DATA

The oldest rocks exposed in the Jumbo area are metasedimentary and metavolcanic rocks of presumed Triassic and Jurassic age. These metamorphic rocks have been intruded by granodiorite of Cretaceous(?) age. Unconformably overlying the Mesozoic rocks are Tertiary rhyolitic ash-flows of the Hartford Hills Rhyolite. The Hartford Hills Rhyolite is overlain by andesite flows and breccias of the Alta Formation which crops out extensively here and in the Virginia City area. The flows and breccias of the Alta Formation are highly propylitized in the Jumbo area, but superficial bleaching, characteristic of other mining districts, is minor. Unaltered andesite and dacite flows and breccias of the Kate Peak Formation lie unconformably upon the Alta Formation. According to Bonham (2), intrusive granodiorite porphyry, similar to that of Mount Davidson in the Comstock District, may underlie portions of the Jumbo area.

Bennett, Dec. 1972

II. Galena District

The Galena area includes Pleasant Valley and a portion of the Virginia Range and Steamboat Hills. The district was first organized in 1860 and soon afterwards a mill and smelter were erected to process the lead-silver ores of the Union or Commonwealth Mine in section 12, T. 17 N., R. 19 E. The venture was unsuccessful and operations were abandoned until the early 1900's. Between the early 1900's and 1939 several different companies controlled the property and did additional development work accompanied by minor base metal production. The Union Lead Mining and Smelting Company acquired the property in 1935 and between 1943 and 1945 produced over 14,000 tons of ore containing lead, silver, zinc, and copper grossing about \$232,000. Small amounts of ore were extracted from the property through 1956, but the mine has been idle since 1957. Several other small mines and prospects are also present in the area, but production from these properties has been minor. Incomplete records for the entire district indicate total production exceeded \$414,000 (2).

GEOLOGY AND MINERALOGY

The basement geology of the Galena area consists of Mesozoic metamorphic rocks intruded by granodiorite. These rocks are overlain unconformably by Tertiary andesitic and volcanic rocks of the Alta and Kate Peak Formations. Economic mineralization occurs exclusively in metamorphic rocks consisting of hornfels, marbleized limestone, slate, metasandstone, and metaconglomerates (2).

In the Union Mine ore occurs in a fault zone that cuts hornfels, metaconglomerate, and metasandstone. The fault zone is up to 30 feet wide and trends N. 40°-60° E. and dips 55° S. The ore was locally oxidized up to depths of 175 feet and consisted of cerussite, smithsonite, hemimorphite, malachite, and chalcantite. Primary sulfide ore is a mixture of galena, sphalerite, chalcopryrite, pyrite, and arsenopyrite. The associated gangue minerals are quartz, calcite and chlorite.

Several other small mines in the area explore geologic environments similar to that at the Union Mine. However, only a small amount of gold, lead, zinc, silver, and arsenic has been produced from these properties.

Minor amounts of scheelite are reported to be present in a tactite formed along an intrusive contact between granodiorite and limestone near the Denver Mine in NW¹/₄NE¹/₄ sec. 30, T. 17 N., R. 20 E.

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POTENTIAL FOR DEVELOPMENT

An exploratory drilling program was conducted by the U.S. Bureau of Mines in 1944-1945 at the Union Mine (2). The drilling revealed extensions of the ore zone below the deepest workings. Assays of the composite drillhole samples indicate ore values are within the range of those shipped when the mine was active in 1945. Additionally, shallow workings at the Galena Hill Mine in section 5 and 6, T. 17 N., R. 20 E. explore a mineralized fault zone that perhaps is genetically related to the structure at the Union Mine. The occurrence of favorable mineralization over a considerable linear zone of favorable thickness suggests a potential for the presence of additional orebodies in the vicinity of these two mines. However, domestic production from operating mines is more than adequate to supply existing lead-zinc demands. Perhaps the best potential from the area lies in the recovery of silver as a secondary by-product from the benefaction of lead-zinc ores. Exploration in this area will therefore depend upon the future lead-zinc-silver price structure and the degree of urban encroachment into the district. Future production will of course depend upon the discovery of orebodies with adequate reserves.

Past workings consists of numerous shafts, adits, and prospect pits. Future workings, if any, would be the same.

Gold, silver, tungsten, and arsenic are present in several small mines and prospects in the area. The mineralized zones are small, ore values are of low grade, and it is doubtful that these mines will represent an economic source of gold, silver, tungsten, or arsenic.

COMPANIES AND CLAIMANTS ACTIVE IN AREA

The area is heavily staked with lode mining claims. The following compilation identifies some of the claimants in the Galena area:

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|---|--|---|
| 1. TYCO Group
W. H. Blackburn
Feb. 8, 1931
(7 lode claims) | 2. MIDWAY
L. F. Zeigler, et.al.
521 Ann St., Reno
Jul. 15, 1959
(Placer) | 3. OAR Group
Lakeshore Minerals
Refining Co.
PO Drawer 299
Lovelock
(75 lode claims) |
| 4. ROUNDER Group
H. F. Seeman, et.al.
2985 Slater, Reno
1971, 1972
(26 lode claims) | 5. MOLLY STARK Group
Robert Berry
320 Flint, Reno
1965?
(26 lode claims) | 6. MARS
F. E. Ruby
1349 N. Virginia, Reno
Sept. 1968 |

Bennett, Dec. 1972

SELECTED REFERENCES

1. Bailey and Phoenix: Quicksilver Deposits in Nevada; Univ. Nev. Bull. 5, 1944.
2. Bonham and Papke: Geology and Mineral Resources of Washoe and Storey Counties, Nevada; Nev. Bur. Mines Bull. 70, 1969.
(Includes Geologic Map of Resource Area)
3. Godwin et al.: Classification of Public Lands Valuable for Geothermal Steam and Associated Geothermal Resources.
USGS Circular 647, 1971.
4. Thompson and White: Regional Geology of the Steamboat Springs Area, Washoe County, Nevada; USGS PP 458-A, 1964.

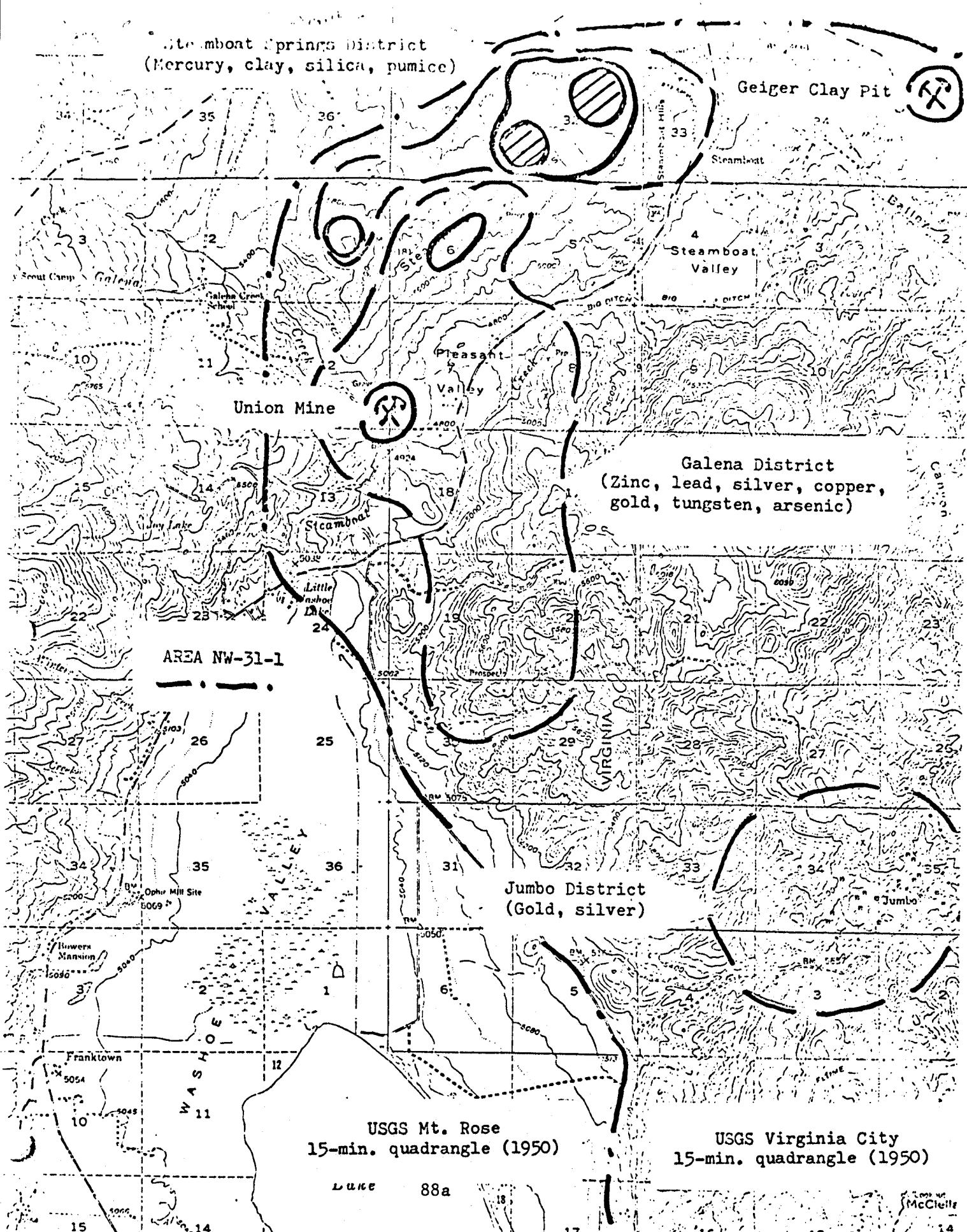
FIELD EXAMINATION

Bennett, Oct. 1972

Bennett, Dec. 1972

Steamboat Springs District
(Mercury, clay, silica, pumice)

Geiger Clay Pit



Union Mine

Galena District
(Zinc, lead, silver, copper,
gold, tungsten, arsenic)

AREA NW-31-1

Jumbo District
(Gold, silver)

USGS Mt. Rose
15-min. quadrangle (1950)

USGS Virginia City
15-min. quadrangle (1950)

Lune 88a

McClure

Taken from:

Mineral Resources Inventory and Analysis

of the

Pyramid Resource Area

Carson City District
Nevada and California

by

R. E. Bennett and H. W. Mallery

1973

*see Washoe County-general
file for the complete
introduction to this report
Item 56*