

Gold, silver  
Scouting report of 1/25/66

NEVADA  
ESMERALDA COUNTY  
GOLD POINT (TCKOP) DISTRICT

(92)  
item 6

2110 0006  
(COPY)

This is notes on a scouting expedition with Rich Chamberlain, January 25 and 26, 1966, in his jeep and camper. Most of the area is accessible by car, except the southernmost part.

For town of Gold Point, see my notes of several years ago on a brief visit with Camozzi, manager of U. S. Milling & Minerals Co. of Silver Peak; today we just drove on thru.

References: USGS Map MF 298 "Geologic map of Esmeralda County", by John Albers, 1965, 1" = 4 miles  
Automobile Club of Southern California map, "Desert Area", road map, shows some mines, very good. 1" = 8 miles.

Attached old map of the general region by James H. Parks, 1907

State Line Mill Area: Approx. Section 27, T 7 S, R 41 E -- westernmost semi-isolated patch of Wyman formation on MF 298. Half-ruined mill with 50,000-100,000 tons tailings; bin droppage is iron-stained vuggy quartz, mostly -- this was probably a cyanide plant on gold or silver ores. Rich says it was operated in 1930's. Also inclined shaft at head of mill, but no sign that it produced much -- in Wyman siltstone, perhaps sunk on a 3# quartz vein striking NW, dipping about 45 NE that is seen in wall to north. Wall exposes siltstone with numerous iron-stained fractures and occasional short bands of yellow-green alteration up to 4" wide (none of this really abundant), and little or no sign of preexisting sulfides -- it isn't any porphyry copper type thing.

About 500' west of mill and shaft is a cut in hillside, maybe 100' long and 20' deep at most, perhaps with stopes below. Strikes about N 70 W, dips 60 NE; on footwall at least a couple of feet of strongly altered shale, some remnants vuggy iron-stained quartz. Could not have been more than 6' wide. Evidently mined.

Hart Silver Mine Area: This is the two- or three-mile segment of band of Wyman formation east of State Line Mill. Name comes from prominent orange sign a mile or two before reaching the mill. This entire band of Wyman throughout this length has numerous old diggings and some bulldozing probably no more than three years old, and prominent orange-painted 4x4 claim posts with names clearly lettered.

Diggings are on zones of alteration-- fe stained, softened, some yellow-green alteration, some bleaching, and usually accompanied by shearing and indistinct quartz veins, vuggy, iron-stained. Mostly trend west-northwest (the zones). Altered areas generally highly irregular, more or less following the bedding, no more than a few hundred feet in maximum dimension. Biggest vein I saw was 6" wide, vuggy fine-grained quartz with spots galena up to 1/2" in diameter, accompanied by up to three or four feet of intensely altered rock with some narrow veinlets quartz -- vein and zone follow bedding, at least locally, and from looks of workings persisted at least a couple of hundred feet. Biggest workings probably no more than 1,000' total (this is the one with the biggest vein, having an A-frame headframe).

Overall, this looks like a well-mineralized area, but with only very small occurrences (referring now to this whole band of Wyman seen, State Line Mill area and Hart property). Probably main values in silver, some lead, perhaps some gold. No copper stain at all seen. Most of area has a foot or two of soil cover, so geochemical prospecting might be useful -- though I think most values in quartz, and therefore probably picked up by old timers.

Greens Camp area: Approx. Sec. 14, T 7 S, R 41 E. Named on Auto Club map. Upper (south) end of valley west of village of Gold Point. MF 298 shows a granitics, with Wyman along foot of ridge to east. Greens camp is two or three buildings visible from main road in valley southwest of Gold Point. To east, along foot of ridge, are big dumps -- on intensely ~~is~~ altered somewhat iron-stained zones in Wyman, with some silicification, near fault shown on MF 298. Presumably on gold shows.

In main canyon, west of Greens Camp a few hundred feet, there are several old diggings on copper shows, along lowest outcrops east of the valley floor. In granite, most cu stain is in west-northwest slips accompanied by strong argillization, with fresh granite between the mineralized zones -- which are 50' and more apart. Some stain is clearly associated with quartz stringers, but some is semi-disseminated in granite in small blobs, still restricted to zones a few inches wide. The altered zones accompanying the staining are up to several feet wide; there is very little iron-staining -- I would say almost all of the iron stain is derived from chalcocite.

This zone or area of copper staining might be a westward continuation of the alteration zones in the more extensive diggings east of Greens Camp -- there are a couple of small diggings between them, on the ridge.

The copper staining west of Greens Camp is all low on the slope, almost into the alluvial cover of the floor. The valley floor is not wide enough to conceal a porphyry copper. No diggings are visible on the west side of the valley, suggesting no mineralization in that direction. Southward, the valley is into alluvium and Tertiary tuffs, which are extensive enough to cover a porphyry copper. The mineralization hardly looks strong enough to suggest that it is the edge of a porphyry copper, however.

Half a mile northeast ~~off~~ along the ridge from the diggings east of Greens Camp is another cluster of diggings. These are near the base of the ridge, on the contact between Wyman and granite, mostly. Main digging is an adit immediately along the contact, with some quartz on dump and with traces of ~~iron staining~~ copper staining. From the crest of the ridge the lower (northern) reaches of the copper-bearing canyon west of Greens Camp are seen to be only half a mile or less wide, with no sign of diggings either in the valley bottom or in the granite hills to the west.

About three quarters of a mile east of the above diggings, across a small valley, are diggings in the next ridge, in Reed dolomite. There is local heavy brown iron staining along a fault, with a little silicification, but no other sign of mineralization.

Three miles southeast of the village of Gold Point are several pretty big dumps (1,000' workings each, by estimate) in Wyman formation. These are on silicified and bleached Wyman, with some iron staining, no sign of copper staining or lead. I presume therefore gold-silver. The silicification is weak, consisting mostly of very small quartz stringers, with local hardening of the sediments. The bleached areas, particularly in the vicinity of a cluster of workings 1/4 mile south of the road from Gold Point southeastward, ~~xxxxxx~~ are fairly large -- in part up to two or hundred feet across. This latter cluster of workings is several hundred feet long, apparently all on the same altered zone trending about N 70 W. To the northwest of this area is a pediment a mile or so wide, apparently with shallow cover.

In about Section 24, T 7 S, R 41 1/2 E, MF 298 shows a projection of granite eastward into the belt of Wyman from the Hart property. Along the north edge of this projection, and for a mile east of it and apparently extending a mile north of the projection (thus about 2 miles by 1 mile) is an area of local alteration of the Wyman with quite numerous small diggings. There is some quartz and some iron stain in these, neither very strong, no copper stain or visible lead. About the same kind of mineralization as at the Hart property, and from the looks of it, also with very little production.

In about Section 12, T 8 S, R 41 1/2 E MF 298 shows the end of a road, in granite. At the position of the road end (but on the ground the road continues over the ridge) there is a dump with maybe 500' of workings; a sign names it the Wonder Mine. Country rock is granite. Part of the dump, maybe 50 tons, has some iron staining and indistinct quartz veining; remainder is granite with no alteration. Presumably a gold prospect. Several other minor diggings lie along the ridge side west from here -- perhaps aligned along the fault shown on MF 298.

Approx. Sec. 26, T 7 S, R 42 E MF 298 shows a small plug of granite about 3/4 mile east-west and a few hundred feet wide. Along the south side of this and perhaps around the east end is the strongest mineralization seen in the entire district. Wyman country rock, with several N 70 W zones up to several feet wide bleached and altered to clay with fairly strong silicification. Diggings are quite numerous here, and some of them are actually stopes on the silicified veins -- the largest at the surface a three or four feet wide, 50' long, 20' or so deep. Presumably gold-silver; no visible copper or lead. The part of the area we reached is on a high ridge; it looks as though alteration continues some distance to the east, though less diggings in it. I saw no evidence of diggings in what I took to be granite to the north. The Mineralized area is about 1 mile E-W by 1/2 mile N-S.

Approx Section 9, T 8 S, R 42 E: MF 298 shows a tongue of Wyman projecting west half a mile into granite. On the north edge of this tongue, at the east end of the ridge, is an old shaft on mildly Fe-stained Wyman with some quartz. At the west tip of Wyman tongue is a shaft with good-looking headframe, in hornfelsed Wyman, no trace of mineralization. Down-canyon from this shaft, however, we picked up some pieces of garnetite, which might mean a contact metamorphic tungsten deposit somewhere.

Overall District: The district as exposed and seen in this trip is about nine miles in diameter, and equidimensional -- no basis on which to assign it a trend. Most individual structures strike about N 70 W.

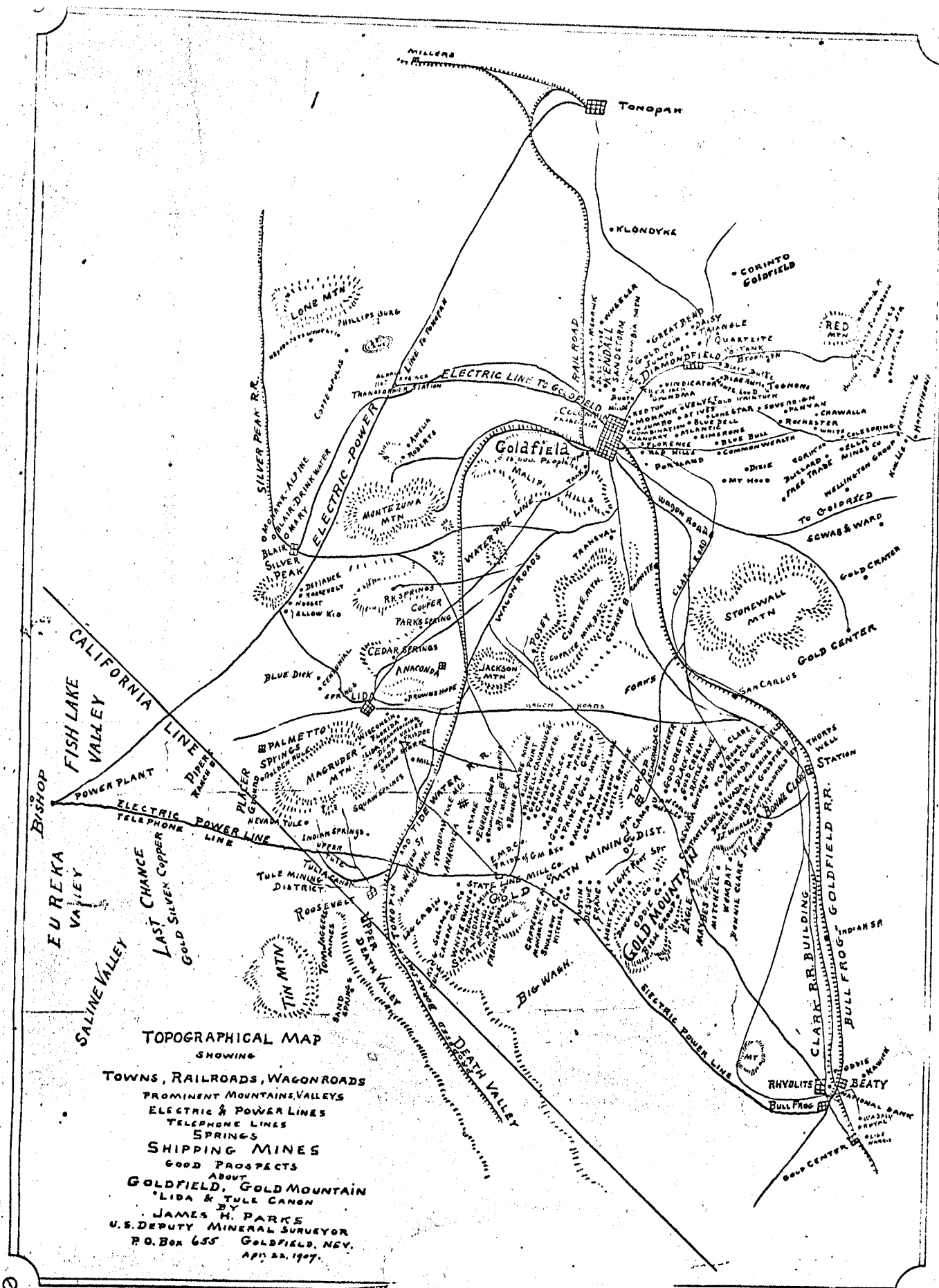
A striking thing is that nearly all of the mineralization is in Wyman formation, in areas where it is fairly evidently underlain by granite at shallow depth, or close to the contact outcrops. By and large, all this Wyman mineralization is uniformly weak -- small spotty quartz veins with some iron staining, and locally green (sort of pyrometamorphic?) alteration. It is clear that the Wyman is the most favorable rock for mineralization in the district, but there apparently just wasn't much mineralization available to take advantage of it.

There are three departures from the uniform~~ly~~ and weak mineralization: (1) the relatively strong mineralization near the granite plug in Sec 26; (2) the copper shows west of Greens Camp; and (3) the garnetite in Sec. 9. It would be interesting to examine more carefully the mineralization around the plug; outcrops are good here, so it seems unlikely a big low-grade body could have been missed, but it is possible. The copper shows west of Greens Camp suggest that there is some mineral zoning, with the center lying to ward the northwest -- toward Lidax. There is barren granite for two or three miles in this direction, before the edge of outcrops is reached, but conceivably the pediment beyond to the northwest (if there is a pediment there) might harbor a porphyry copper -- this is the only place that looks at all possible. Further knowledge of the regional distribution of mineralization -- to the west, in the Lidax-Magruder Mt. area -- would help a decision. The garnetite float found is of interest mainly because it is the only evidence of real contact metamorphism seen in the whole district.

Ore Potential: I can see little hope for anything in the region, unless one of the three possibilities above turns up something -- a porphyry copper to the northwest, something in the area of strong mineralization near the plug, or something in the vicinity of the unusual garnetite. The veins that characterize the district in general are of no interest.

Arthur Baker III

January 25, 1966



TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP  
SHOWING  
TOWNS, RAILROADS, WAGON ROADS  
PROMINENT MOUNTAINS, VALLEYS  
ELECTRIC & POWER LINES  
TELEPHONE LINES  
SPRINGS  
SHIPPING MINES  
GOOD PROSPECTS  
ABOUT  
GOLDFIELD, GOLD MOUNTAIN  
LIDA & TULE CANON  
JAMES H. PARKE  
U.S. DEPUTY MINERAL SURVEYOR  
R.O. BOX 655 GOLDFIELD, NEV.  
APR. 25, 1907.