

NBMG OFR 83-11

See also 83-12 for

geochemical results. GOLD POINT DISTRICT

(92)

Item 17

2110 0017

The Gold Point (Hornsilver, Lime Point) mining district is located along Slate Ridge in T7S; R41, 41 ½, 42E, in the southern part of Esmeralda County, Nevada. It is bounded on the north by the town of Gold Point, on the east by a north-south line through Mt. Dunfee, on the south by the Tokop mining district and Oriental Wash, and on the west by the western edge of R41E. All portions of the district are easily accessible by way of good dirt roads from Nevada highway 71 from the north and from the south through the Tokop mining district.

The Gold Point district was discovered about 1886 by Thomas Shaw. It was originally called the Lime Point district and included the Tokop district until about 1900. Ore was produced from the district in the 1880's and shipped to the railroad at Lida, but the milling plants were poor, labor and supply costs were high and the distance required to transport ore discouraged further silver mining (Turner, 1922). Little activity was reported in the district until the Goldfield boom in 1902 caused the camp to be deserted. When the boom died down, people returned and an increase in exploration resulted in high grade hornsilver being discovered. The discovery rejuvenated the camp and prompted it to change its name to Hornsilver in 1908. At that time the population was about 225. The district produced gold, silver, copper, lead, and zinc from 1907 to 1921 (Turner, 1922; Lincoln, 1923). In the 1920's many of the mines were non-producing due to litigation (Turner, 1922). The town again changed its name from Hornsilver to Gold Point in 1930 when more gold than silver was produced. The district has intermittently produced ore up to the present time. During the recent field inspection, exploration was active around the townsite. e.g., people were entering and inspecting the older mines, heavy equipment had been brought in and earth was being moved. What appears to be a leach pond was being constructed immediately

west of town. The total production for the district has been estimated between 3/4 and 1 million dollars (Albers and Stewart, 1972).

The main part of the Gold Point district is situated in the middle of the arcuate Slate Ridge in the Precambrian Wyman Formation and Reed Dolomite. Here, the Wyman Formation consists of silt and claystone interbedded with limestone, which are metamorphosed in varying degrees to shales, phyllites, calc-silicates, and marble. Overlying the Wyman is the Reed Dolomite, a grey, coarsely crystalline dolomite (Albers, Stewart, 1972). Intruding the Precambrian metasediments is a northeast trending finger of the Jurassic Sylvania Pluton. Turner (1922) suggests that the north dip of the beds is the result of tilting from the emplacement of the pluton. Both the metasediments and the pluton are faulted and sheared along N50-70W trending, high angle, parallel fault zones which are possibly related to the Silver Peak-Palmetto-Montezuma Oroflex structure. Paralleling the shear zone are fine grained diorite dikes and ore bearing quartz veins. The quartz veins are crushed and cemented with hematite and chalcedonic silica (Turner, 1922). The crushing of the veins due to post-emplacement movement rendered the original sulfides susceptible to oxidizing solutions (Ransome, 1909). The Gold Point ore consists of silver in the form of cerargyrite with minor bromyrite as crusts coating the oxidized, crushed quartz fragments and gossan. Native gold, galena, and cerrusite in minor quantities also occur with the ore.

Arthur Baker (1966) made the following comments pertaining to ore potential: "I can see little hope for anything in the region, unless one of the three possibilities -- a porphyry copper to the northwest, something in the area of strong mineralization near the plug (S26, T7S, R42E), or something in the vicinity of the strong garnetite (S9, T8S, R42E). The veins that characterize the district in general are of no interest."

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