from NBMG OFR 83-9
See also 83-10 for
geochemical results.

Elko Co.-general
Item 45

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HICKS DISTRICT

Information on the mines and history of the Hicks district is very sparse. It is likely that because of its small size and production, the district never achieved distinct recognition and was simply regarded as part of the proximate Mountain City, Alder or Gold Basin districts. The district was probably named after Hicks Mountain and Hicks Creek, which are located along its northern boundary. The entire district lies within the Humboldt National Forest.

The exact locations of the mines are not known but most of the mining activity probably occurred in the McDonald Creek area, especially on Enright Hill. Two mines are shown on Enright Hill on the Wells 2° sheet (1970), although none appear in that area on the more dated Mountain City 15' quadrangle (1936). Since we were not able to visit the properties during the course of this project, nothing is known about the current status of the mines. Smith (1976) includes the Silver King mine in the Hicks district. However, an active lead-silver mine named the Silver King is located some distance southwest of Mountain City (Ungina Wongo 7½' quad) and this mine is more appropriately included in the Mountain City district. The best located mine in the district is the McDonnell, or McDonald lode and millsite. The mint and millsite are patented. The claims are located on Enright Hill in section 8, T46N, R55E. A few recent unpatented claims are scattered throughout the rest of the district.

The district produced small quantities of gold, silver, lead and zinc. Some copper was also produced as a by-product.

The mines on Enright Hill are shown on the preliminary geologic map of Elko County (Hope and Coats, 1976). Several east-west directed thrusts are mapped in the area. The northern mine, called the Silver King by Smith (1976),

occurs in limestones and conglomerates of the Mississippian Banner and Nelson Formations. The southern mine, named the McDonald, is located less than one mile to the south. It is developed in siltstones and shales of the Mississippian Chainman shale. Approximately one mile southwest of the mines the sediments are intruded by a small body of Jurassic(?) diorite. The mineralization may be related to the intrusive body or to the numerous faults which dissect Enright Hill.

At the Mendive prospect located north of McDonald Creek, yellow antimony oxides reportedly occur from the oxidization of antimony-silver sulfosalt (Lawrence, 1963).

Selected References:

Hope, R. A. and Coats, R. R. (1976) Preliminary geologic map of Elko County, Nevada: USGS open-file 76-779, sheet 2.

Lawrence, E. F. (1963) Antimony deposits of Nevada: NBMG Bul 61.

Smith, R. M. (1976) Mineral resources of Elko County, Nevada: USGS open-file rpt 1976-56, p. 83-84.