

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

NV-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.

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All of the gold and silver-bearing lode material produced from the Jumbo District came from properties located on veins cutting the Alta Formation. The mineralization occurs along two intersecting fault systems; one fault strikes N. 40°-50° E. and dips 40°-60° NW. and the other fault strikes N. 20°-60° W. and dips NE. Economic mineralization in the form of free gold is confined to small isolated ore shoots in highly brecciated andesite of the Alta Formation. None of the mineralization appears to occur in well-defined veins. Associated gangue minerals within the fault zones consist of stringers and lenses of quartz, calcite, and zeolites. Oxidized ore contained free gold, the main mineral of economic importance in the district. Minor amounts of gold have been recovered from placer operations in the area.

#### POTENTIAL FOR DEVELOPMENT

The gold and silver-bearing lode material mined in the Jumbo area occurs along two intersecting fault systems. Most of the ore was oxidized to a depth of about 250 feet and favorable values were probably the result of secondary enrichment. Existing mines could be subject to exploration by small operators in anticipation of discovery of additional ore shoots, should the price of gold rise enough to make the venture profitable. However, the ore tenor can be expected to decrease rapidly below the zone of oxidation. This, coupled with the irregular and ill-defined distribution of the ore shoots, suggests a poor future potential for gold production from the Tertiary section surrounding the Jumbo area.

Pyrite is a nearly universal alteration product around sulfide ore bodies. The minor extent of bleaching in the Jumbo area indicates the paucity of sulfur present when post-Miocene hydrothermal solutions penetrated the country rock and consequently, the unlikelihood of primary sulfide mineralization at depth. However, it is possible that the surficial bleaching may represent only minor leakages of hydrothermal fluids that may have deposited ore at depth. If this is the case, the basement rocks which underlie the Jumbo area would be a favorable environment for ore deposition.

Inasmuch as favorable geology is projected to underlie the Jumbo area, mineralization in the pre-Tertiary section cannot be discounted. Possibilities include both a disseminated and vein-type ore deposit. If a disseminated-type mineral deposit is present this conjecture is immaterial as the Tertiary section constitutes an uneconomic amount of overburden.

Placer deposits in the Jumbo area are not extensive and therefore not amenable to the economies of large-scale operations. These placers could conceivably be of interest to small operators in the future as the price of gold rises.

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Past mining operations consisted of limited underground workings accessible by several shafts and adits, some of which are now caved. Open placer workings were presumably one or two man operations. Future mining operations, if any, would consist of underground workings.

In summation, prospecting activities will continue in the Jumbo area because of its past history of gold production. The best potential for future production lies in the basement rock beneath the Tertiary section. As the price of gold continues to rise, basement rocks beneath the shallower portion of the Tertiary cover will be likely exploration targets.

#### COMPANIES AND CLAIMANTS ACTIVE IN AREA

The Jumbo area is heavily staked with both lode and placer claims. However, when the area was examined no active mining or exploration activities other than annual assessment work were noted. The following compilation identifies some of the claimants in the Jumbo area:

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|---|---|---|
| 1. RED MC Group<br>C. J. McEwen, et.al.<br>(25 lode claims)                             | 2. DON Group<br>(8 lode claims)   | 3. JUMBO MINING COMPANY Group<br>Jay McIntosh<br>48 High, Reno<br>1969<br>(lode claims, placer claims). |
| 4. HUNT Group<br>(7 lode claims)  | 5. ANNIVERSARY LODE Group<br>I. F. Smith, et.al.<br>May 1966<br>(2 lode claims)                         | 6. POLARIS Group<br>W. L. Chedester<br>715 Brentwood, Reno<br>Jun. 1966<br>(9 lode claims)              |
| 7. VENUS Group<br>(3 lode claims)   | 8. TOMAC Group<br>W. L. Chedester, et.al.<br>715 Brentwood, Reno<br>May 1966<br>(10 lode claims)        | 9. CENTURY Group<br>W.L. Chedester<br>715 Brentwood, Reno<br>Sept. 1966<br>(2 lode claims)              |
| 10. ANCHOR 6<br><i>W.L. Chedester</i><br><i>Sept-Oct 1966</i><br><i>(6 lode claims)</i> | 11. EL-MAC Group<br>R. J. McCann<br>511 Country Village<br>Carson City<br>1968, 1969<br>(8 lode claims) | 12. PRIMER<br>R. D. Lewis<br>421 N. Sierra, Reno<br>Mar. 1952   |
| 13. Victoria No. 1<br>Roy Obester, et.al.   | 14. SILVER STAR Group<br>Geo. Antunovich<br>Jun. 1969<br>(9 lode claims)                                |   |

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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.

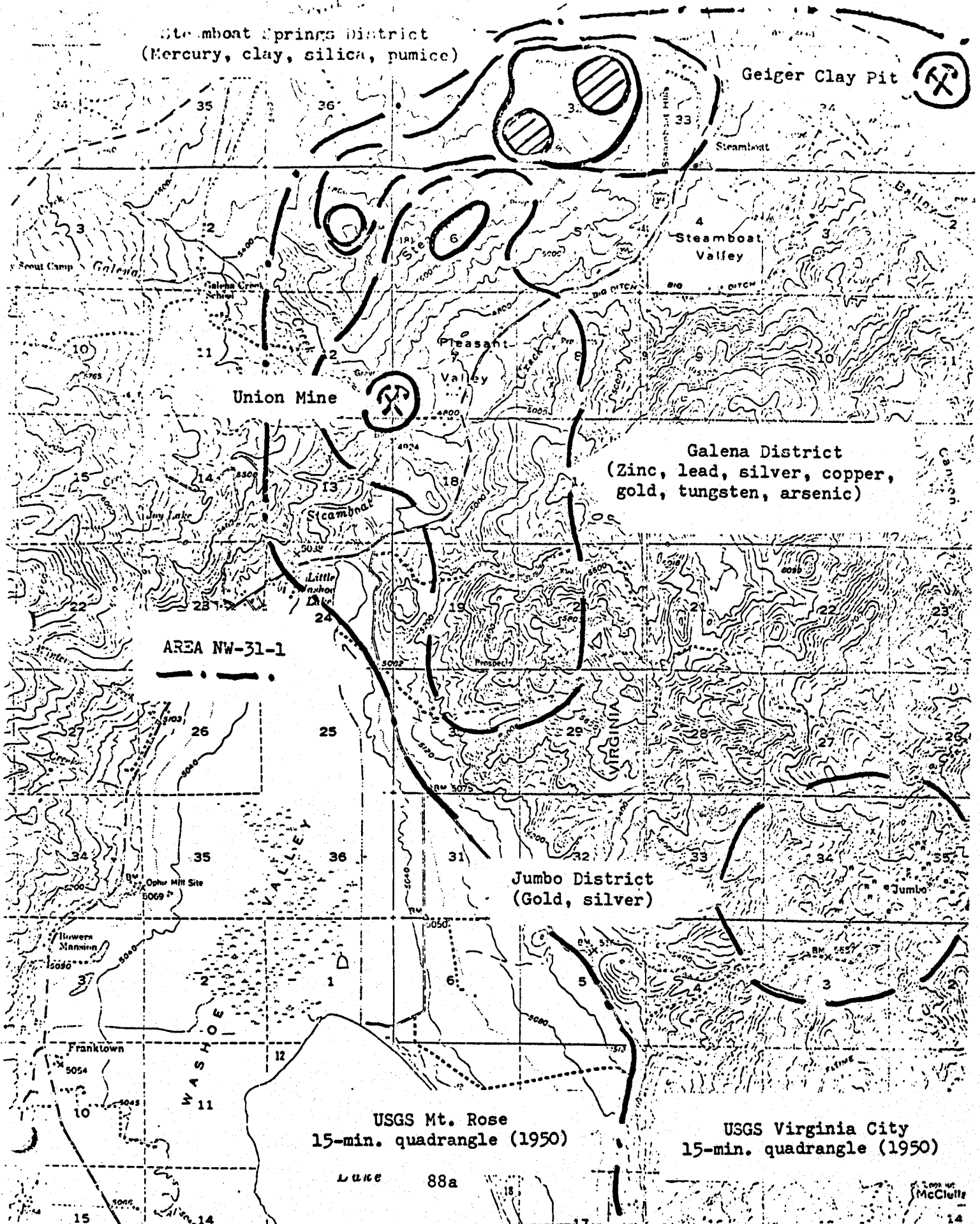
FIELD EXAMINATION

Bennett, Oct. 1972

Bennett, Dec. 1972

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

Geiger Clay Pit



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

USGS Virginia City  
15-min. quadrangle (1950)

LUKE 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  
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