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Item 8

KINGSTON DISTRICT

The Kingston district is on the east side of the northern Toiyabe Range in southern Lander County and includes parts of Ts 15 and 16N, Rs 43 and 44E in the area immediately north of the Nye County line. The district, also known as the Victorine district, includes areas earlier referred to as the Bunker Hill, Summit, and Santa Fe districts.

Gold and silver bearing quartz veins were discovered at the Victorine Mine in Kingston Creek Canyon and at the Mother Lode Mine near Santa Fe Creek Canyon in the early 1860's, and by 1875 there were four stamp mills in operation in Kingston Canyon. The ores proved to be difficult to treat as well as low grade, and little production is credited to the district. Total production, through 1969, is less than \$100,000 (Stager, 1977).

Rocks in the Kingston portion of the Toiyabe Range consist mainly of complexly faulted Paleozoic sediments. The area lies slightly to the west of the axis of the Antler Orogenic Belt, and rocks of miogeosynclinal, eugeosynclinal, as well as transitional facies are present, mainly as stacked thrust slices. In the Kingston district the Paleozoic sediments are exposed in three, and locally more, thrust sheets. The lower two major plates consist predominantly of Lower Cambrian quartzite, shale, and limestone, overlain by Cambrian and Ordovician limestone and phyllite. The uppermost of the three plates consists predominantly of chert and argillite of possible Ordovician age (Stewart and McKee, 1977).

Granite rocks of Jurassic age intrude the older sediments, and are exposed in the southern part of the district (Broad Canyon). Emmons (1870) mentioned that a 50-foot basic dike occurred about 200 feet below the Victorine vein on the north side of Kingston Creek that, along with the vein, paralleled the structure in the sedimentary rocks.

The major ore deposits in the district occur along silicified zones in limestone at the top of a sequence of quartzite, phyllite, and limestone of Cambrian age.

J. Tingley + P. Smith (1982) Mineral Inventory of
Eureka-Shoshone Resource Area: NBMB 83-3
See also 83-4 for geochemical results. 83-3

At the Victorine (Kingston) mine, the largest in the district, ore occurs as pockets and veinlike masses of quartz in silicified, carbonaceous limestone. The ore trends east, dips 20° to 30° to the north, generally conformable with bedding. The mineralized structure is said to be traceable for more than a mile along strike, extending to the Bi-Metallic Mine on the west. The ore consists chiefly of gold and silver associated with tetrahedrite, sphalerite, chalcopryite, and pyrite which occur with quartz and calcite in silicified, carbonaceous limestone. The quartz is dark colored, shows evidence of brecciation, and clots of graphitic material occur along the quartz-sulfide lenses.

The Golden Star (Mother Lode) Mine, at the edge of Smoky Valley northeast of the Victorine, shows similar structure and mineralization. The vein forms a prominent white outcrop high on the mountain front which is clearly visible from Highway 376 to the east. Galena, tetrahedrite, sphalerite, chalcopryite are present in the vein material, and scheelite was seen in one sample from the upper dump of the old workings.

At the time of this visit (1981), Brazos Industries was operating at the Victorine site. They were mining underground at what they refer to as the Klondike Mine (across the canyon to the west of the old Victorine). Ore was being hauled by truck to a small concentrating plant alongside State Route 376 in Smoky Valley.

Evidence of recent claim staking was seen in Broad Canyon, and numerous flagged locations marking geochemical sample sites were scattered throughout the district.

Other than the Victorine, however, no properties were being actively worked at the time of examination.

Selected References:

- Brown, J. R. (1867) Mineral resources of the States and Territories west of the Rocky Mountains.
- Emmons, S. F. (1870) Mining Industry: U.S. Geol. Expl. of 40th Parallel, vol. 3.
- Hill, J. M. (1915) Some mining districts in northeastern California and northwestern Nevada, USGS Bull. 594.
- Lincoln, F. C. (1923) Mining districts and mineral resources of Nevada, Nevada Newsletter Publishing Co., Reno, NV.
- Means, W. D. (1962) Structure and stratigraphy in the central Toiyabe Range, Nevada, Univ. of Calif. Pub. in Geol. Sci., v. 42, no. 2, p. 71-110.
- Stewart, J. H., McKee, E. H., and Stager, H. K. (1977) Geology and mineral deposits of Lander County, Nevada: NBMG Bull. 88.