

LEAD-ZINC-SILVER

2870 0007

NEVADA
ESMERALDA COUNTY
LONE MOUNTAIN DISTRICT

96A
item 9

Scouting Report

GOLD EAGLE PROPERTY

See also scouting report of 5/9/61 on Lone Mountain district.

Property is south of Lone Mt., about four or five miles east of Weepah, reached by a dirt road leaving US. Highway 6 about four miles east of Silver Peak turnoff. My visit today was casual, inspired by comment in a bar that someone was shipping from it. In 1961 when I visited it, no one around, and sampled ore stockpiled on the dump -- it assayed 7.3 oz. Ag, 6.1% Pb, 7.9% Zn, nil copper. At that time the shaft and some level workings had just been completed by an Oregon syndicate of non-miners.

Property is now operated (owned?) by a Dave Pruitt, mining engineer, maybe 33 years old, very hospitable. He says in the few months since he took it over he has shipped 66 rail cars - about 3,500 tons - to Midvale mill, and is keeping up shipments at rate of one car per week. Ore averages 10 oz. Ag, 8% Pb, 12% Zn, 1% Cu.

Mine is opened by vertical shaft to 250', with levels at 150' and 250'. Oxidized zone is just above 150' Level. Vein strikes northwest and dips steeply northeast; old shafts to NW reached about 70' depth. Country rock is limestone intruded by quartz monzonite; the ore is in the limestone, along a fault structure with a narrow diabase dike, about 30' SW of the contact between limestone and quartz monzonite and dipping parallel to it.

Ore body is a pod about 25' wide and 50' long, on vein where it is either intersected by a cross structure or makes a small sharp bend. It has been followed from 250 up to 150 Level, and evidently has been exposed higher, so continuity is well established and Pruitt expects it to continue downward indefinitely -- he is soon to start on a drilling project from underground to prove this. Northwest of the pod the vein continues with ore grade but widths of only about 3' for a distance of 50' or so on 250 Level, and is still in face; Pruitt says old shafts evidently found wider pods ahead of face, so there is some hope in this direction.

The ore is galena, sphalerite and pyrite replacing altered limestone; some parts of the mineralized body are massive sulfides, with pyrite predominating in these. Other parts are irregular masses of galena-sphalerite a few inches thick in limestone, implaced along fractures and particularly at the intersections of fractures that are essentially those between big breccia fragments. They are mining and shipping the massive stuff, and view the other as eventual mill ore.

The ore pod should make about 75 tons per foot of depth, not enough to make a real mine, but he may be able to make it with present metal prices; he has only three men besides himself. It is not big enough for a company. There could be enough ore along the vein to make an operation, or it could open up downward. Surface exposures are poor, but the soil cover is thin and probably has been prospected pretty well, so no reason to hope for a big covered near surface orebody. Along strike the vein runs into the quartz monzonite and cuts off; perhaps it does the same downward, but maybe it opens up there.

West of the property 1/4 mile there is a covered area about 1,000' in diameter, and a string of several ones till one reaches the edge of the mountain area. There is a possibility of ore under some of this cover. Particularly, there may be a possibility of a porphyry copper, as there are several shows of pyrometasomatic copper in the hills (see 1961 report). The Gold Eagle lead show suggests zoning that I can't entirely recognize the pattern of. The area is worth some investigation.

Area scouted October 26, 1963.

AB
Arthur Baker III