BALD MOUNTAIN CLAIMS

Map reference.—Plate 1, no. 2.
Location.—Secs. 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, and 18, T. 45 N., R. 21 E.
Elevation.—From 6,000 to 7,191 ft (1,830 to 2,190 m).
Access.—By jeep road 2 mi (3 km) south from Refuge headquarters.
History.—Early gold and silver prospecting, from 1897 through 1909, led to the location of 109 claims on and adjacent to Bald Mountain. In the two years 1911 and 1918, 25 claims were located. In December 1929, the discovery of mercury, south of the Refuge boundary, sparked exploration for it in the Refuge. Courthouse records show that 30 claims were located from 1930 through 1941. During the uranium boom years of 1954 and 1955, 140 claims were located. Five groups (Nevada Guy Nos. 1–43, Lone Pine Nos. 1–29, Jim Bum Nos. 1–22, Amar Nos. 1–20, and Hades Nos. 1–13) on the south side of Bald Mountain make up most of the claims. Some groups appear to overlap others. No claims have been located since 1955.
Geology of deposit.—Country rock is predominantly andesite and associated tuff and ash beds, although rhyolite crops out in the southwest corner of section 8. Most of the gold and silver claims are in an area underlain by tuff. The tuff is mostly vitric. The textures grade from very fine to coarse and sugary; some are welded. Colors are cream, light green, yellow, pink to purple, brown, and red. Much of the tuff has altered to bentonitic clay. Most of the uranium claims are underlain by fine-grained, dark andesite.
Development.—Four caved adits, two shafts, five cuts, 36 pits, and 60 trenches were found in the area (fig. 29). Most of the workings are caved.
Sampling.—A total of 86 samples were taken. Of extremely altered volcanic rocks, one grab sample assayed 0.04 oz/ton gold (1.4 g/t), three others assayed 0.01 oz/ton gold (0.3 g/t), and still another 3.3 oz/ton silver (113 g/t).
A chip sample from a 0.5- to 2-in (1.3- to 5-cm)-thick quartz vein in light-purple to brown welded tuff assayed 0.06 percent mercury. A 4.4 ft (1.34-m) chip sample taken across a shear zone striking N. 55° W. and dipping 80° S. in a purple welded tuff assayed 0.023 percent mercury, and a grab sample of highly altered green and pink silicified ash assayed 0.02 percent mercury.
Conclusions.—Assay results of anomalous gold, silver, and mercury suggest low-grade recovery potentials. Geochemical work by the Geological Survey indicates a high potential for deposits of mercury and for concealed base and complex precious-metal sulfide deposits.