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A RECONNAISSANCE INSPECTION

OF THE

SILVER BELL MINING CLAIMS

MINERAL COUNTY-NEVADA

X-Ref. Bass Mine
Yellowstone Mine

August 17th - 18th 1954

# SILVER BELL MINE

## Introduction

This report is based on a hurried one-day inspection trip to the Silver Bell Group of claims. No time was allowed for visiting any of the adjoining claims or area; so any remarks (geological or otherwise) are confined to the specific property named: i.e. the Silver Bell mining claims.

## Location

The property is located approximately 3 miles west of the old mining town of Marietta, Mineral County, Nevada (In T5N - R32E approx. 25 miles SW of Mina, Nevada. Mina is the present terminus of the Southern Pacific Railroad). Nothing remains in the town of Marietta at the present time other than a number of old shacks and stone houses in an advanced state of disrepair. A prospector occupies one of the shacks.

## Gen'l History and Infomation

The Marietta District has been the scene of considerable mining activity since the turn of the century. Principally gold, tungsten and silver ores have been mined.[1]

From data available, the Silver Bell Group is the property formerly known as the Bass Mine ( and possibly a part of the Yellowstone). It is said the property produced silver ore but when and how much would require some research. The claims were abandoned by the former owners and are now held by a group of five men who found radioactive minerals (uranium) on the property. (See J. Gish, constable of Mina, Nevada or R. Oberstrom of the Sierra Machinery Co. in Reno, Nevada) - A total of 15 claims.

## Geology

The mineralized zone lies in a quartz monzonite (granodiorite) intrusion. ( Intrusion through Triassic limestones - Vanderburg). On the reconnaissance inspection no rocks other than the quartz monzanite was seen (no limestone) on the property and time was not available to see the surrounding properties or valley floor. The general strike or trend is in a SE-NW direction and the dip is quite uniform averaging about 53-degrees east and varying no more than a few degrees at any point. There is a very noticeable lack of the high-temperature minerals ( garnet, epidote, tourmaline, magnetite, chlorite and the like.). The only fluorescent mineral observed was hyalite which exists throughout all

1. Information available on the the area by numerous authorities. See both Federal and State publications

the workings. - Radioactivity is quite prevalent. On the northeast part of the property, the count with a counter(Techniaal Associates Model F-6) is definitely above background and as you proceed south and east across the property the intensity increases. Numerous places can be referred to as extreme"hot" spots. The greatest count is obtained along the silver bearing ore stringers. The present owners describe the mineral zone as a definite silver bearing vein with a parallel off-shoot. From my observations in the limited time which I spent on the property, I would say the entire workings show there is not a definite vein but a series of stringers or veinlets - all having the same approximate dip as the rocks in which they occur but not all lying in the same plane. What the owners refer to as a parallel off-shoot is no doubt just a stringer which is somewhat larger than the smaller stringers in which it occurrs. Actually the vein boundaries are ill-defined and somewhat obscure, generally speaking. In some places there is a definite footwall in the quartz monzonite but to obtain a clear picture would take further geological study and mapping. A number of theories or suppositions could be drawn from my observations but no actual facts with proof could be presented without further study. It can only be said that uranium bearing minerals do exist on the property.

Ore

There is no ore developed nor is there any material which could be classified as possible or probable ore (See conclusions)

Development

There are numerous adits and shafts from which an excellent picture of the structure may be obtained. Due to the old timbering in the shafts it would be rather precarious to attempt entering them but practically all of the adits are accessible. The ground stands well and no timbering is necessary except in chute and stope openings. The adits vary in length anywhere from 50 feet to about 1300 feet. The writer entered the most of these. None of the workings were established in any sort of pattern to block out ore. It is the opinion of the writer that they started a working wherever the outcroppings showed any sign of mineralization and either continued to drift on the showing or went someplace else and started a new drift on some other outcrop. It was all very haphazard.

Equipment, Machinery, etc.

There are no buildings, machinery or any improvements on the property. There is evidence that numerous buildings, and other equipment such as a blacksmith shop, mine rails, etc. were here at one time but it is all gone at the present time.

Accessibility

From the map accompanying the report it can be seen the road is

is fairly good from Mina to Marietta. However, for the 3 miles or more past Marietta the road is more adaptable to a pick-up truck. The road ends about a half a mile from the property and it is necessary to go this last distance on foot up a narrow winding trail. The path is quite steep but an accessible road could be established here with little expense. With regard to trucking ore out of this area it would undoudtedly be less expensive to reach State highway 10 via Teel's Marsh rather than through Marietta where the present rad is located.

Natural Resources

There is no timber on the property. Vegetation consists of sagebrush and a few scattered pinion pine. There is no water on the property and the only water available is from a well at Marietta. A well could be drilled on Teel's Marsh much closer to the property but even so would be about one mile from the mine up a steep grade. However, it is very doubtful that water to operate any kind of mill operation could ever be developed in this area. Electric power is not available.

Recommendations

An assay map and a geological study should be made of the property.

Conclusions

There are definitely radioactive minerals on the property being discussed. These I have identified as Uranophane ( a calcium uranium silicate)and uraninite ( uranium oxide).
There was not sufficient time to obtain a systematic group of assays from the property ( I was given to understand this has never been done). However I did take numerous cut samples from rock in place. None of these were taken from places pointed out to me as being good locations or where the readings were particularly good on the counter. I obtained them from the more inconspicuous places. Following are the results I obtained from the samples. These indicate uranium content from both uranophane and uraninite.

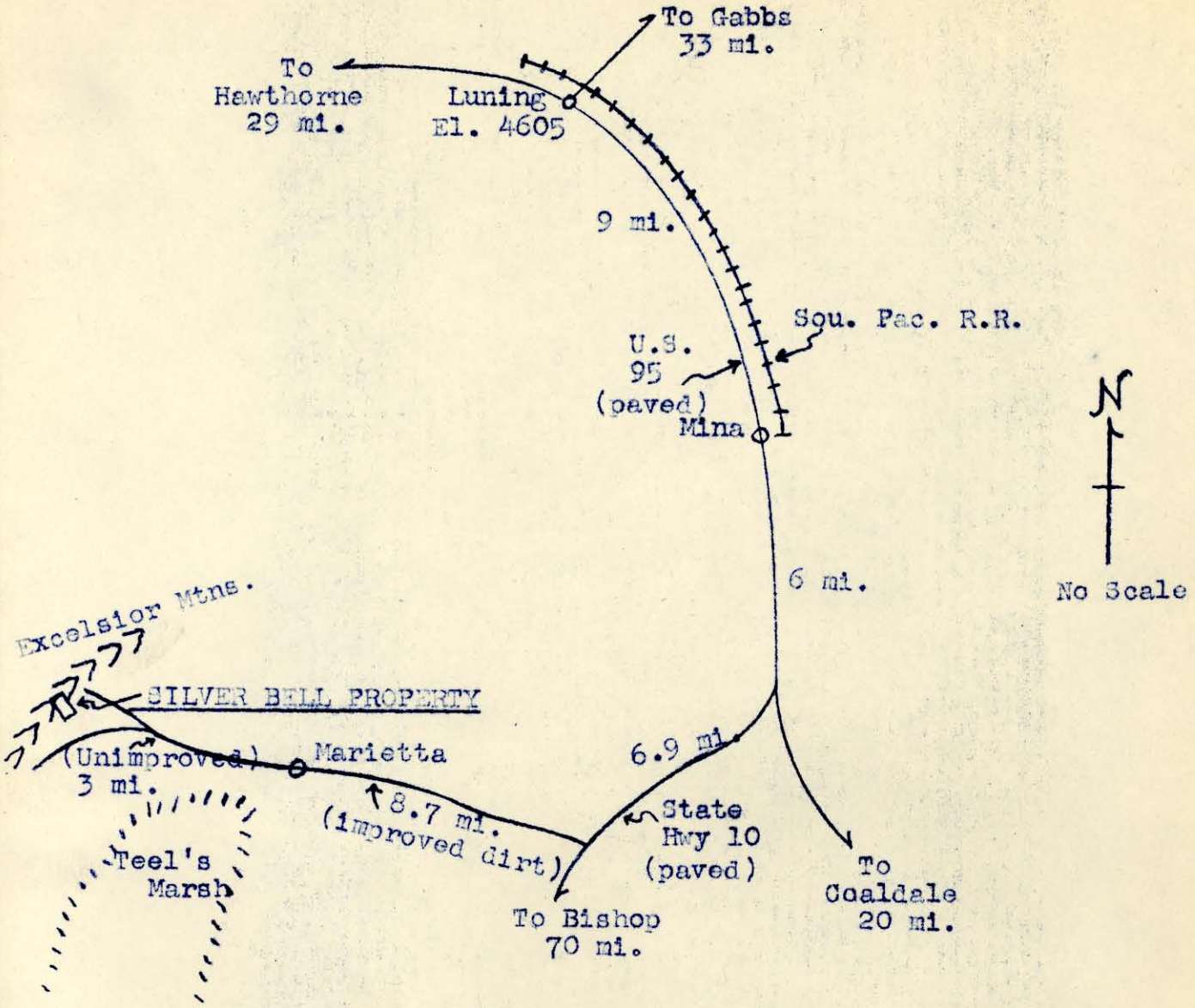
| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| #1 - | 0.11% | #6 - | 0.52% |
| #2 - | Trace | #7 - | 0.66% |
| #3 - | Quartz monzonite Slightly over count on the meter (i.e. over background) No wet test run. | #8 - | 0.46% |
| | | #9 - | 0.13% |
| | | #10 - | 0.47% |
| #4 - | 0.32% | #11 - | 0.24% |
| #5 - | 0.05% | #12 - | None ( Not from the Silver Bell. From foot of the mountain - approx. 1 mile S.E.. |

There appears to be a definite continuity to the mineralization. The property should by no means be abandoned - however, it will take considerable capital to do the exploratory work necessary. I would not advise anyone taking this property to do exploration work without looking into all the adjoining property and be certain of their extra-lateral rights in this particular instance.

An assay map should be prepared of all the workings and also assays of the existing outcrops and exposed rock in place. Along with this the underground and surface geology should be plotted. There is no shipping ore in sight so to proceed in any other manner would probably be more costly and unwise. It has been suggested that drilling be done first but in my opinion this would be unwise from the standpoint that with so little knowledge of the ground drill holes could not be placed systematically and would essentially be a guessing proposition. There are a number of opinions on where and in what type of formations uranium should occur. I am familiar with the most of these and will not attempt to disprove them in this report. However, I will say there have been any number of exceptions to numerous geological theories. - Radioactive minerals (uranium) do exist on this property and it is yet to be proven as to whether they do or do not exist in commercial quantity.

Respectfully

Wm Bourne Wood
Mining - Geologist




The Silver Bell Mining Claims as shown lie on the eastern slope and near the crest of the Excelsior Range in Mineral County, Nevada. The elevation is approximately 7000 feet.
Mina as shown is the terminus of the Southern Pacific Railroad branch line.