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Lead-silver, copper

*Geophysical*NEVADA
MINERAL COUNTY
MARIETTA DISTRICT201
item 4

References: Nevada B. of M. Bull. 58, "Geology and Mineral Deposits of Mineral County, Nevada", 1961. Geologic map of the county showing the district.

General: The district lies in the hills north of Teels Marsh; the abandoned town of Marietta is at the foot of the hills, and one Roy Ladd is the only inhabitant. He is paid, I believe, as caretaker for the Giroux Mines Co. properties, which are some weak copper shows just up off the valley floor. The main production of the district has been lead-silver ore, produced in early days from several adits a couple of miles up the canyon that runs north from Marietta.

I visited the district mainly because I have been told it looks like a possible porphyry copper. Ha.

Geology: The map of Bull. 58 shows the entire Marietta area as being underlain by Jurassic Dunlap formation, with a couple of small bodies of Cretaceous granitic rocks at the south edge of outcrops -- in the vicinity of the Giroux copper shows. The Dunlap formation is described as sandstone, conglomerate and volcanic rocks, and this is what it looks like on the ground.

The Giroux copper diggings are mostly in a strongly sheared and heavily iron-stained zone with some silicification, striking easterly and dipping about 30° N; the zone is 20' to 30' thick and traceable for a couple of hundred feet along the strike. Locally within it there are films and disseminations of copper silicates. It has been rather randomly prospected by several inclines, adits and vertical shafts; at one of the latter, not more than 100' deep, the dump has some unaltered granodiorite with a little pyrite and traces of chalcopryrite on widely-spaced fracture surfaces. The mineralized area is only a few hundred feet in diameter, and at its south edge passes under alluvium of the valley. Judging by the topography, the edge of outcrops lies about at the position of a major frontal fault that drops bedrock to considerable distance below the surface, so there is likely no chance of reaching anything with geophysics under the alluvium.

Two miles up the Marietta Canyon to the north are half a dozen adits, some with dumps indicating 1,000' or more of workings, in dirty gray quartzites of the Dunlap formation. Among the dump material are fairly abundant fragments of moderately coarse white quartz, and some of these contain small patches of galena surrounded by shells of lead carbonates -- this is evidently the most productive ore of the district. The mineralized area is a mile or so in diameter, judging by the distribution of adits. Apparently none of the veins are more than two or three feet wide. There are abundant good outcrops -- no scope for geophysical work.

Exploration Possibilities: I can see nothing in the district that looks worth further work. The lead-silver veins have been well explored, and not particularly productive. The copper area is too small and erratically mineralized to be of interest in itself, and anything under the adjacent alluvium is probably far too deep to be of economic interest.

ABH
Arthur Baker III

District scouted December 12, 1964