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ITEM 88

LEAD, SILVER, AND ZINC

The ores of these metals are commonly formed together and mined accordingly. Prices on all three have gone up recently. The outlook for silver is especially good because of price and because the Federal Government's Office of Mineral Exploration will lend up to 75 percent on exploration costs for approved silver prospects. The limit is 50 percent for nearly all other metals.

Geochemical exploration, guided by fracture analyses and geologic mapping and augmented by geophysical surveys, is recommended in areas with thin alluvium and soil cover near old mining districts. The Rush Valley and Ophir districts southwest of Salt Lake City and the Battle Mountain-Cortez and Eureka districts in north-central Nevada are especially promising. Surprisingly little geochemical exploration has been done in these areas although the mines border both sides of the alluvial valleys in the placers. The very rich ore body explored recently by Kennecott's Burgan shaft at the East Tintic district, 55 miles south of Salt Lake City, was found through a geochemical survey.

Drilling for down-faulted ore bodies at the old Lakes of Killarney mine in the Ophir district southwest of Salt Lake City is suggested. Further consideration should be given to the unnamed silver mine on Southern Pacific Railroad property two and one-half miles south of the Western Pacific Railroad in N1/2N1/2 sec. 19, T. 35 N., R. 35 E., southwest of Winnemucca in Humboldt County, Nevada.

The American Zinc Institute and the International Lead Zinc Research Organization have been outstanding in searching out new uses for zinc. Their discoveries definitely made the mining and processing of zinc, and the manufacture of its products, growth industries with significant potential. During 1964, the price of zinc increased from 13 to 15 cents per pound and future demand looks strong.

According to Killsgaard and Heyl (1964), large quantities of zinc oxide ores, running 10 to 25 percent zinc, could be mined or salvaged from main dumps in the Park City district and other silver-lead-zinc districts of western Utah if methods of beneficiation and market conditions were improved.

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