3300 0023

(12) Item 23

NW-33-1
Ag, Au, CaF_2, Hg

Mining District: MOUNTAIN WELLS (LA PLATA)
(Silver, Gold, Fluorite, Mercury)

T. 18-19 N., R. 32-33 E.
Churchill County, Nevada
AMS Reno Map Sheet 1971

GENERAL BACKGROUND

Indicated mineral area NW-33-1 encompasses an area on the southeastern slopes of the Stillwater Range in central Churchill County about 12 miles north of Frenchman. Access to the area is provided by a road from Stillwater, from U. S. Highway 50 just west of Frenchman, and from the Dixie Valley Road.

Mountain Wells was organized as a mining district in 1862 and became a boom camp during the 1860's, but there is no record of a sizeable amount of ore having been produced. Many claims were prospected until 1869, when most of the miners deserted the district for the White Pine boom in eastern Nevada. Only minor prospecting activities occurred between 1869 and 1939, resulting in several small silver ore shipments.

The Silver Wave Mining Company built a 10-stamp mill at La Plata in 1864, but there are no extensive tailings or mine workings to indicate that large ore production resulted. The mill was later dismantled and moved to Nye County. Another mill was built about 1864, several miles north of La Plata Canyon, but this mill was also unsuccessful because of a lack of commercial quantities of ore.

The town of La Plata, established in 1863, was the county seat between 1864 and 1868. Stillwater became the county seat in 1868.

Mercury ore running 8 pounds per ton over an extent of 35 feet was discovered near Mountain Wells in 1930, according to E. Bailey and D. Phoenix in a 1944 report. There is no indication that the claim was ever developed.

The Michigan claim was located as a fluorite prospect in 1939, but surface mineralization indicated the veins were too small to be of commercial value. The claim site is located about 2 miles below the old townsite in the lower portion of La Plata Canyon.

GEOLOGICAL AND TECHNICAL DATA

Most of the workings within the district have been located along quartz

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veins in slate near the contacts with the granodiorite intrusives. A number of veins exposed by workings on the northeast side of La Plata Canyon, 1½ miles up canyon from the old millsite, were sampled (3) in the late 1960's. No gold was found. The maximum amount of silver detected was 300 ppm from a 6-inch vein, with the other samples yielding less than 100 ppm. The amounts of other metals present were also low; the maximum was 0.3 percent lead in the sample containing the greatest amount of silver. Traces of antimony, copper, lead, and molybdenum were found in some samples (3).

The Michigan fluorite claim location is underlain by limestone with rhyolite intrusives. Small fluorite veins occur in fractures within the limestone.

POTENTIAL FOR DEVELOPMENT

Although there are numerous old prospects in the area, the potential for future production of commercial quantities of ore from most of these properties is generally remote. Surface "showings" of mineralization in the area, as well as recent samplings, indicate that presently known ores are low-grade. There are several new groups of claimants who have filed lode claims in the early 1970's in the hopes of discovering valuable minerals.

COMPANIES AND CLAIMANTS ACTIVE IN AREA

1. JOLLY ROGER Group
   William Rogers et.al.
   (no address given)
   (lode claims)

2. J & B Group
   Original Klondyke
   Divide Mining Co.
   (lode claims)

SELECTED REFERENCES

1. Bailey and Phoenix, 1944, Quicksilver deposits in Nevada.

2. Vanderburg, W. O., 1940, Reconnaissance of mining districts in Churchill County, Nevada: U.S. Bur. Mines Inf. Cir. 7093.

3. Willden and Speed: Geology and mineral deposits of Churchill County, Nevada; U.S.G.S. Open-file report, 1968.

FIELD EXAMINATION

Hoke, December 1974

Hoke, 1975


ALKALI FLAT
STILLWATER
NATIONAL
WILDLIFE REFUGE
Cattle camp
Corral
3870
IXL Canyon
JOB PEAK
8790
TABLE
MOUNTAIN
DIXIE VALLEY
Ranch
(ruins)
3575
3700
4000
3900
NW-33-1
NW-28-4
PIROUETTE
MTN
ROUND
MTN
TWIN
PEAKS
CHALK
MOUNTAIN
U S NAVAL
ELECTRONIC
WARFARE
TRAINING
AREA
NW-33-4
NW-33-7
NW-33-3
4260
4170
4300
5340
6035
5070
Sand dunes
Frenchman
Salt mill
Alkali flat
Targets
U S NAVAL
TARGET AREA
BAKER 17
TARGET
AREA
FAIRVIEW PEAK
Hunter sheep camp

Taken from:

Mineral Resources Inventory and Analysis of the Clan Alpine Planning Unit

Carson City District

by

R. E. Bennett and C. L. Hoke

1975

for complete introduction see Churchill Co.-general files Item 17