

MUTTLEBURY DISTRICT

LOCATION

The Muttletbury district is located in T26-27N, R32E in the West Humboldt Range in Pershing County. It is accessible by a graded county road from Lovelock.

HISTORY

Gypsum was reportedly the first commodity mined in the district in 1891-93. Gypsum was again mined between 1902-1913. Since that period the gypsum deposits have been explored by the U.S. Gypsum Co. who owns the main deposits. The Muttletbury Mine was worked between 1910-1919 and reportedly produced 40 carloads of silver-lead-antimony ore. Recorded production from one shipment in 1939 is 331 ounces of silver and 200 lb. of lead. The district is idle at the present time.

GEOLOGIC SETTING

The bedrock in the district consists of complexly folded and thrust faulted Triassic and Jurassic, phyllite, shale, limestone, sandstone, gypsum, and anhydrite, and quartzite. These Mesozoic rocks are overlain unconformably by sedimentary and volcanic rocks of Tertiary age.

ORE DEPOSITS

Johnson (1977) has described the geology of the gypsum deposits in the district. The gypsum deposits are of two types; bedded deposits and gypsite deposits. The bedded deposits are the ones of economic importance. They occur in thrust slices in the Mesozoic rocks.

The Muttletbury Mine is located on a quartz-calcite vein in a strongly brecciated zone at the base of a large thrust fault. The vein is in the lower plate rocks which are composed of shale and limestone. The vein trends northeasterly and dips 20° - 30° southwest. It ranges in thickness from a few cm to $3/4$ m. Lawrence (1963) reports that the ore contains tetrahedrite, galena, stibnite, sphalerite, and pyrite. The ore examined during the inspection of the mine contained abundant pyrite, tetrahedrite, minor sphalerite, and abundant fine-grained stibnite(?). Much of the stibnite could be jamesonite since no galena was found in the vein material. Jamesonite could account for both the lead and antimony content of the ore.

An alaskite sill about 3-4 m thick and containing abundant disseminated pyrite, intrudes black shale a few meters below the thrust zone.

GEOCHEMISTRY

Sample results not available yet.

SELECTED REFERENCES

Johnson, M. G. (1977) Geology and mineral deposits of Pershing County, Nevada: Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology Bulletin 89, p. 115.

Lawrence, E. F. (1963) Antimony deposits of Nevada: Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology Bulletin 61.