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NBMG OFR 83-11
See also 83-12 for geochemical results.

(32)
Item 1

NEWBERRY DISTRICT

The Newberry (Truman) mining district is located in the southern part of the Newberry Mountains in T30,31S;R65E, in the extreme southern tip of Clark County. Most of the properties are north of Christmas Tree Pass in the vicinity of Spirit Mountain, approximately 17 airmiles southeast of Searchlight, Nevada. Access to the district is by way of several good dirt roads east from U.S. Highway 95. The district is bound on the west by the Piute Valley, on the south by Nevada Highway 77, on the east by the Lake Mead National Recreation Area (LMNRA), and on the north by approximately latitude 35°32'. Previous to the building of Hoover (Boulder) Dam, the district extended eastward to the Colorado River and many of the workings are now within the LMNRA.

The earliest mention of activity in the district was in the 1860's when soldiers from Ft. Mohave, Arizona, discovered gold and silver on the Homestake Claim Group, now within the LMNRA. The next recorded activity was not until 1906 when John Thurman made discoveries in the area now known as Camp Thurman in the northern part of the district. Vandenberg (1937) implies that there was intermittent activity in the district between 1906 and the 1930's, after which several properties began producing gold and silver ore. The district has probably experienced stages of exploration and minor production coincident with the rise and fall of precious metal prices. The estimated total production for the district prior to 1937 is approximately $250,000 in gold and silver; however, this figure does not reflect additional production due to subsequent activity. Currently, the 5000 acre Jetco Claim Block covers the main part of the district. At the time of examination, the owners were having difficulty securing financing and all activity has ceased with only the caretaker and his family on the premises. The claim block encompasses most of the older workings outside of the LMNRA.

The Newberry district is situated in the central portion of the Newberry Mountain Range, a north-south trending complex of Precambrian metamorphic rocks

intruded by granitic masses of Precambrian, Jurassic, and Tertiary age. The Precambrian metamorphics are layered and banded gneisses, schists, granites, and mylonite that have been partially melted, remobilized, and foliated in the Late Mesozoic during the Laramide Orogeny. The basement rocks are intruded by rhyolite, diabase, pegmatite, and aplite dikes (Volborth, 1973). The regional metamorphism probably resulted from the intrusion of the large, central, Tertiary, granitic Spirit Mountain, dikes, and extrusive volcanic activity (Volborth, 1973).

The Spirit Mountain Pluton is composed of microgranites, rapakivi and muscovite granite. It is intruded by structurally controlled rhyolite and diabase dikes along axial zones of weakness.

The structure of the Newberry Range developed in the Tertiary and Quaternary and represents a broad zone of uplift along an axis trending northwest. Normal, and thrust faulting and strike-slip movement produced a string of tilted blocks, some of which are elongated graben and horst structures (Volborth, 1973). Banding in the Precambrian metamorphics parallel the northwest trending axis and dip steeply east-northeast.

Many of the workings follow the general trend of the mafic and felsic dikes and the contact between the Tertiary Spirit Mountain Pluton and the Precambrian metamorphics where the granitic gneisses have been thrust easterly over the pluton. The workings also follow gold-sulfide (pyrite, chalcopyrite, galena) bearing hydrothermal quartz veins which cement the fault and shear zones and outcrop prominently along exposed ridges and slopes. The quartz veins cut all rock types. Rocks adjacent to the veins and dikes are sericitic and chloritic altered. Gold occurs freely or is associated with pyrite and chalcopyrite in a quartz matrix. It was also noted that sulfides occur in the mylonite. Fresh sulfide-rich ore was observed only a few feet below the surface. Antimony in the form of tetrahedrite and oxides has been reported north of the Camp Thurman area (Lawrence, 1963).

In the area along the boundary of the National Recreation Area, just north of Copper Mountain, old prospects south of the Rockefeller mine expose very interesting breccias apparently related to andesitic plugs and dikes. The geology of this area seems to vary slightly from that presented on the available geologic maps. Large outcrops of brecciated Precambrian rocks and brecciated andesite were observed to form pipe-like bodies and, in one case, a ring of breccia that borders a volcanic plug. The breccias are cemented with silica, are heavy with hematite staining, and sometimes contain barite crystals in open spaces. Wall rock, and the breccia fragments themselves, are commonly chloritized. Most of the old prospects are in areas where the breccias are stained green from the presence of copper oxide minerals.

The only evidence of recent activity in this area was just west of the old Rockefeller mine. Recent dozer work and blasting has been done on a propsect just on or just outside of the Recreation Area boundary.

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