

Mining District: OLINGHOUSE DISTRICT (WHITE HORSE DISTRICT)
(Gold, Silver)

T. 22 N., R. 23 E.
Washoe County, Nevada
USGS Nixon 15-min. quadrangle (1957)

GENERAL BACKGROUND

This area, in the vicinity of Big Mouth and Secret Canyons, north of the town of Olinghouse, is considered to be a part of the Olinghouse District. Prospecting in the area began as early as 1860, and reportedly some gold and silver ore has been mined. The properties in the area were not examined by the writers.

GEOLOGICAL AND TECHNICAL DATA

The geology in the vicinity of Secret and Big Mouth Canyon is basically the same as that at Olinghouse (see NW-30-8). However, Tertiary granodiorite porphyry intrusives, important loci of ore mineralization around Olinghouse and in other areas of the western hemisphere, are not exposed in the immediate vicinity.

Mineralization is reportedly confined to northwest-trending fault zones, 3 to 15 feet in width, that cut ash-flow tuffs of the Hartford Rhyolite. Grab samples taken from mine dumps in Secret and Big Mouth Canyons assayed 0.18 ounces of gold and 0.70 ounces of silver and 0.62 ounces of gold and 2.06 ounces of silver per ton respectively (1).

POTENTIAL FOR DEVELOPMENT

Apparently none of the workings in the vicinity of Big Mouth and Secret Canyons are extensive, and all have probably been abandoned for years. Although some of the mineralized zones are of favorable thicknesses, none seem to have any appreciable linear extent. Undoubtedly, past production came from small, rich lodes encountered at shallow depths and formed by secondary enrichment. The favorable ore values probably decreased below the zone of oxidation.

Economic Tertiary or pre-Tertiary mineralization in the basement rocks is a possibility. However, basement rocks are projected to be at a depth of about 4,500 feet and, under this circumstance, are of extremely dubious potential.

The area around Secret and Big Mouth Canyons will undoubtedly be of continued interest to prospectors, but the potential for precious metal production from the Tertiary section seems slight. Should the price of gold rise appreciably, some of the old workings might be reopened in hopes of discovering economic orebodies.

Bennett, Jan. 1973

Past mining operations include several adits and numerous prospect pits. Future operations, if any, would probably consist of underground workings.

COMPANIES AND CLAIMANTS ACTIVE IN AREA

Unknown.

SELECTED REFERENCES

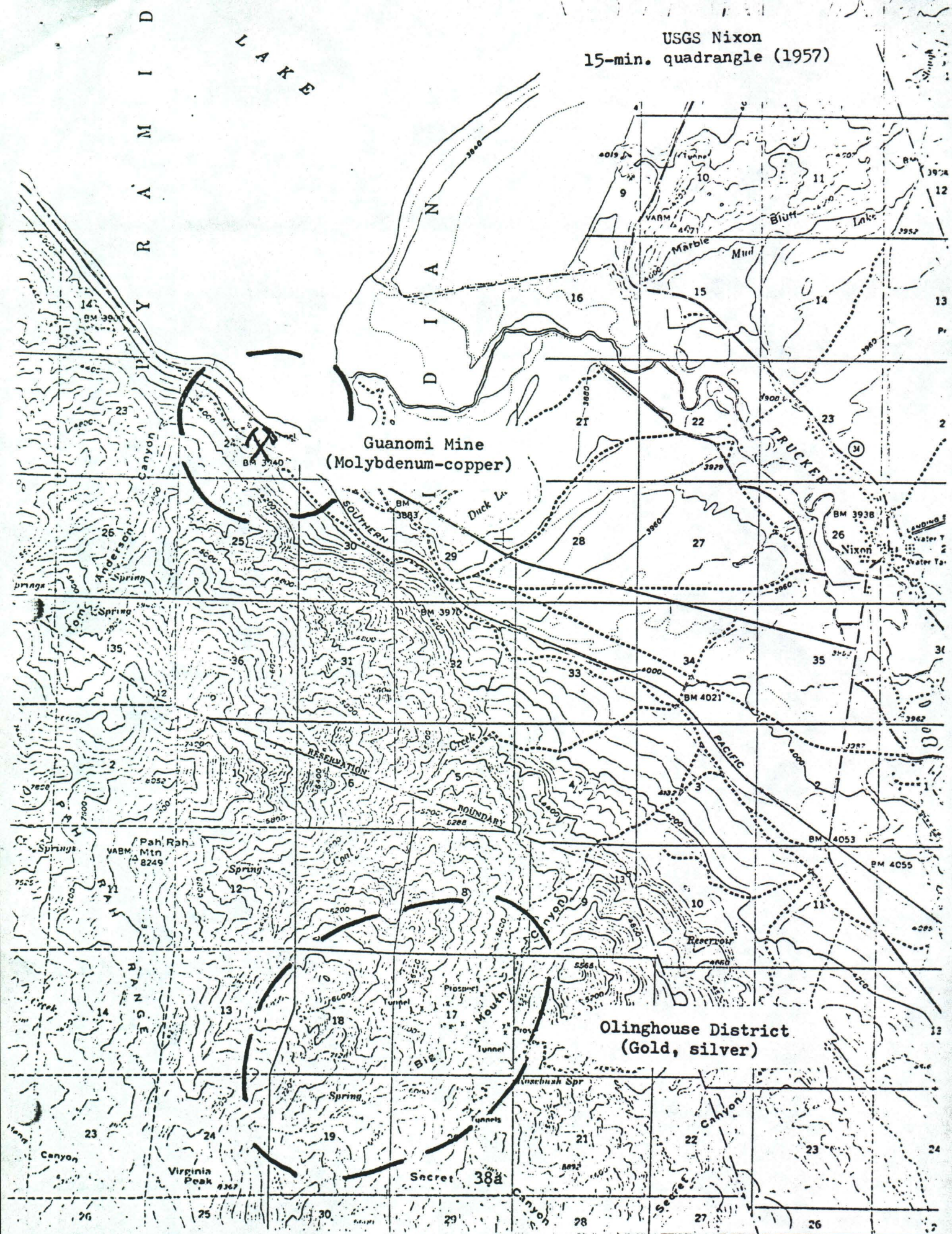
1. Bonham and Papke: Geology and Mineral Resources of Washoe and Storey Counties, Nevada; Nev. Bur. Mines Bull. 70, 1969.
(Includes Geologic Map of Resource Area)

FIELD EXAMINATION

Not examined.

Bennett, Jan. 1973

USGS Nixon
15-min. quadrangle (1957)



Taken from:

Mineral Resources Inventory and Analysis
of the
Pyramid Resource Area

Carson City District
Nevada and California

by
R. E. Bennett and H. W. Mallery
1973

see Washoe County-general
file for the complete
introduction to this report
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