

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

T. 20-21-22 N., R. 23 E.

Washoe County, Nevada

USGS Wadsworth 15-min. quadrangle (1957) and Nixon
15-min. quadrangle (1957)

GENERAL BACKGROUND

The Olinghouse area is located on the eastern slope of the Pah Rah Range about 7 miles west of Wadsworth. The district extends from Big Mouth Canyon in the Pah Rah Range on the north to the Truckee River Canyon on the south. Principal production in the area came from mines located in T. 21 N., R. 23 E. Prospecting activity began at Olinghouse around 1860, but maximum productivity did not occur until the period 1901 to 1903. In 1907 inadequate ore reserves contributed to the decline of large-scale company mining and the properties were leased to small operators. Small amounts of gold and silver production have been recorded up to the present time. Incomplete production records for the district indicate the extraction of over 25,000 tons of ore with a value exceeding \$1,000,000 (1).

Placer deposits have been sporadically worked in the Olinghouse area since its first discovery. Between 1939 and 1954 the Natomas Company explored the alluvial fans at the mouth of Olinghouse and Frank Free Canyons in sections 26 and 27, T. 21 N., R. 23 E. through 4 shafts and numerous churn drill holes. Samples from the shafts ran 8 cents to 94 cents per cubic yard and the churn drill samples average 23.66 cents per cubic yard (at \$35.00 per ounce of gold). The exploration program outlined a minimum of 10,391,000 cubic yards of auriferous gravels to a depth of 75 feet. Two attempts were made in the 1960's to work the eluvial (not water worked, per se) placer deposits on Green Hill, but both operations were unsuccessful (1).

GEOLOGICAL AND TECHNICAL DATA

Mesozoic metasedimentary and metavolcanic rocks that have been intruded by granodiorite in the Derby Mine area are the oldest rocks in the Olinghouse area. These rocks are overlain unconformably by the Hartford Hills Rhyolite of Tertiary age which is in turn overlain unconformably by basaltic and andesitic volcanics and associated sediments of the Chloropagus Formation. Granodiorite porphyry dikes and irregularly shaped bodies intrude both the Hartford Hills Rhyolite and the Chloropagus Formation. Younger flows, breccias, and intrusives of the Kate Peak Formation also crop out in the Olinghouse area. Pliocene basalt flows and associated sedimentary rocks unconformably overlie the Kate Peak Formation.

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The productive mines in the district are on properties located in the footwall block of the Olinghouse fault. This major structure strikes about N. 45° E. and dips steeply to the east. Economic mineralization occurs in and adjacent to granodiorite porphyry intrusions that cut the Hartford Hills Rhyolite and Chloropagus Formation. However, past production has been confined to veins in the Chloropagus Formation and the intrusive granodiorite porphyry. Ore bodies occurred in small, high-grade shoots or tabular stockworks along fault zones in or adjacent to the porphyry dikes and intrusives. Typical vein material consists of quartz and calcite with native gold, pyrite and chalcopryrite. Gold, silver, and mercury tellurides were present in some of the high grade ore.

POTENTIAL FOR DEVELOPMENT

None of the workings in the Olinghouse area are very deep, thus suggesting that economic orebodies were restricted to the zone of oxidation and the ore tenor decreased with depth. Due to the mode of mineralization, the properties will probably be of no interest to large mining companies because of inadequate reserves. However, prospecting activities will continue in the area and undoubtedly intermittent production of gold and silver will come from existing mines worked by small operators.

The entire area around the town of Olinghouse is pockmarked with shafts, adits, and prospect pits. Lode mining operations in the future will be confined to underground workings.

Basement rocks are projected to underlie the area at depths of 4,000 to 6,500 feet, and the potential for discovery of significant Tertiary or pre-Tertiary mineralization under this circumstance is unlikely.

The placer deposits in the alluvial fans at the mouth of Olinghouse and Frank Free Canyons constitute a potentially important gold reserve. The deposits are probably marginal under present economic conditions, but further increases in the price of gold could mean immediate development.

If the placer deposit is developed, it most likely will be done with a large gold dredge. The dredge would be impounded in a body of water which would be "carried" along as the dredge worked the deposit. The impact on the surface by such an operation would be great.

Several uranium claims are in the area, but their economic significance or potential is unknown.

COMPANIES AND CLAIMANTS ACTIVE IN AREA

The area around Olinghouse is heavily staked with both placer and lode mining claims. The following list identifies some of the claimants in the area:

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1. YELLOW STREAK Group
M. L. Smith, et.al.
850 Casazza, Reno
Feb. 1964
(4 placer claims)
2. SMALL ROCK
Milton Jacobs, et.al.
1634 Knox, Reno
Jan. 1970
(placer claim)
3. GULCH GRAVEL Group
Green Hill Dev. Co.
Virgil T. Smith
555 Crummer, Reno
(12 lode claims)
4. ANTIQUE LODE CLAIM
5. KEYSTONE Group
D. Barr
1205 Mill, Reno
Jul. 1972
(2 lode claims)
6. BABE, RENEGADE EXTENSION
Emile Cabanne
Nov. 1968
(2 lode claims)
7. TEXAS #2
8. KAREN PLACER
Melvin Pearl
380 Sutherland, Reno
Jul. 1955
(1 placer claim)
9. FLINTSTONE ROCK Group
Jeff Porter, et.al.
Reno
Feb. 1965
(4 placer claims)
10. SIWASH
H. C. Murphy
2211 B St., Reno
Apr. 1930
(lode claim)
11. OLGA M. LODE
R. B. Clemmons
PO 160, Wadsworth
(1 lode claim)
12. YELLOW EAGLE Group
E. A. Davlgnon
Box 146, Fernley
Feb. 1955
(2 lode claims)
13. LEES PASTIME
14. VALLEY VIEW Group
Bill Scurris
Apr. 1955
(relocation of
1905 claim "1 May")
(2 lode claims)
15. HUTCHINSON LODE
R. H. Cowles, et.al.
1130 Fairfield, Reno
(1 lode claim)
16. GOLD FRACTION, TERFREE
R. Rossler, et.al.
853 Haskell, Reno
(2 placer claims)
17. RED DOG LODE
Frank Tarantino
PO Box 6112, Carmel
California
Aug. 1956
(1 lode claim)
18. SUNBEAM Group
Geo. Dallimore
925 S. Arlington, Reno
(3 lode claims)
19. SILVER WAVE Group
R.H. Cowles, et.al.
Reno
(3 lode claims)
20. EMPIRE Group
Vernon Vogel
(2 lode claims)
21. RENEGADE METALS LODE
Fred Craft
1231 E. 7th, Reno
(1 lode claim)
22. CROW POINT
A. C. Risley
3111 Idlewild, Reno,
(1 lode claim)
23. LODE #3
Frank Tarantino
PO Box 6112, Carmel
California
Jul. 1956
(1 lode claim)
24. CLIPPER Group
E. Olinghouse Estate
c/o Russ Pike, Attorney
195 South Sierra, Rm. 202
Reno
loc. about 1900
(8 lode claims)

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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

Bennett, Nov. 1972

Occupancy of claims (placer) on Green Hill
reported in Oct. 73. Intent of claimants unknown.

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Olinghouse District
(Gold, silver)

Uranium Prospect

USGS Wadsworth
15-min. quadrangle (1957)

Olinghouse District
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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
Item 50*