

PANCAKE DISTRICT

The Pancake mining district is located in western White Pine County about twenty miles southeast of Eureka in the northernmost part of the Pancake Range. Old workings in the district consist of mines, quarries, and prospects scattered throughout the low mountainous terrain lying between Hwy 50 and Pogues Station.

Early mining in the Pancake district took place during the 1870's following the discovery of small deposits of silver and coal. No production is recorded for these commodities, but a significant amount of stone insulating material was produced during this time. In 1950, an exploratory oil hole was drilled in the southeastern part of the district, but the resultant show of "residual oil" was not enough to generate further interest or expense. Presently, exploration work continues on several disseminated precious metal prospects located in the southern half of the district.

The district is best known for a coal occurrence at the Pancake coal mine located just south of Hwy 50 near Pancake Summit. This deposit has been studied by many authors and will not be described in this report (see reference list).

The geology of the northern Pancake Range is characterized by north-trending, linear belts composed of upper Devonian through upper Mississippian limestones and shales. The belts are separated by areas underlain by Tertiary rhyolitic to andesitic flows, ash-flow tuffs and alluvium. These belts coincide with the general "synformal and antiformal" structure of the range described by Nolan (1974). Further disturbance of the sediments is attributed to a few major,

See also 83-2 geochemical results.

J. Tingley + J. Bentz (1982) Mineral Res. of Egan Resource Area: NBMG OFR ~~82-9~~ 83-1

north-striking faults and more minor crosscutting, high-angle faults.

A small body of dacite, approximately one square mile in exposed areal extent, intrudes Mississippian sediments in the central part of the district. The intrusion is dated 108 m.y. making it late Cretaceous in age (Nolan, 1974). South and east of Pogues Station, jasperoids replace some of the Paleozoic sediments. The presence of both intrusive rocks and jasperoids has drawn recent attention to this area.

During our examination of the district, we visited a few of the "sandstone prospects" plotted on the Mineral Resource Map of White Pine County (Smith, 1976). These prospects were found to explore gossans along steep, north-striking faults in limestone. The limestone is brecciated and replaced by silica forming abundant jasperoids near the workings. Lead mineralization was noted at one of the prospects. It is likely these deposits are the "first discovery" silver prospects cited by Smith (1976).

A barite occurrence at the Cue Ball group of claims is located on the east slope of the Pancake Range in section 1, T16N, R55E. Barite occurs as replacement veins in Devonian dolomite. Trenches and drill holes were noted in 1979 when the prospects were last visited.

Several large claim blocks cover disseminated precious metals prospects in the central and southern portions of the district. The claim areas are generally underlain by sediments of the Pilot, Joana, and Chainman sequence which locally contains jasperoid lenses along faults and bedding. At the time of our

examination, several companies were conducting exploration work on their claims in this area.

Selected References

Engineering and Mining Journal (1876) Pancake coal mine: McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., V. 21, p. 349.

Hague, A. (1892) Geology of the Eureka district, Nevada: USGS Mono. 20.

Hose, R. K., Blake, M. C., and Smith, R. M. (1976) Geology and mineral resources of White Pine County, Nevada: NBM&G Bull. 85.

Lintz, J. R. (1957) Nevada oil and gas drilling data, 1906-1953: NBM&G Bull. 52.

Nolan, T. B., et al. (1974) Geologic map of the Pinto Summit quadrangle, Eureka and White Pine Counties, Nevada: USGS Misc. Invest. Map I-793.

Rich, M. (1956) Geology of the southern portion of the Pancake Summit quadrangle, Nevada: USC, MA thesis.

Tripp, E. C. (1957) The geology of the northern half of the Pancake Summit quadrangle, Nevada: USC, MA thesis.