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NEVADA STATE BUREAU OF MINES

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Item 5

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESS

Notes on Summit Springs

Mineral County, Nevada.

by

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A number of inquiries have been received lately at the Nevada State Bureau of Mines, requesting information about the gold discovery near Summit Springs, in Mineral County. "Where is Eddyville?" is often asked.

The gold discovery made by Spainhower and Eddy last May is about four miles northwest of Summit Springs, which was once a station on the old wagon road between Sodaville and Tonopah. The settlement which has sprung up near the discovery has been named Eddyville. It is situated among the numerous ravines and gulches that scar the east slope of Pilot Mountain, and has a population of 75.

The discovery was the result of careful and intelligent prospecting by Spainhower and Eddy. They panned the ravines and shallow gulches, following wherever the colors seemed to lead.

The vein to which they were finally led has no definite outcrop. The vein matter is for the most part softer than the country rock, containing a little quartz, some iron oxide and quite heavily impregnated with manganese.

The vein occupies a fault plane along which there probably have been a number of movements. It has an east-west strike with a north dip at a rather high angle. Its width ranges from two inches to three feet. The walls are fairly well defined. The hanging wall is quite wavy, causing rapid changes in vein widths along both strike and dip.

The ore occurs in bodies irregular in shape and size, sporadically distributed throughout the vein. It is brownish black in color, composed principally of soft, earthy manganese and iron oxide in a frail, sponge-like structure of silica. The gold occurs as very fine threads and thin plates in interlacing masses, often in sufficient quantity to bind together pieces of broken ore.



The rocks in the vicinity comprise a series of triassic slates, shales, limestones, and andesite, intruded by later, probably early tertiary, andesite. The triassic andesite occurs as intercalary beds in the sedimentary rocks. It is dark brown, fine grained, rather compact, considerably altered from its original composition and appearance. The Stormcloud (discovery) vein occurs within this andesite, conforming with it in strike and dip.

The general strike of the sedimentary beds is east, dipping north at high angles. Slate predominates. The intrusive andesite occurs in wide dikes coursing northwest, cutting the older formations. Some relatively large areas of this andesite, irregular in shape, suggest large intrusive masses of the rock, underlying the region. The ores of the district seem to be genetically related to this andesite.

Other veins on the discovery group and nearby claims have the same characteristic structure and vein fillings as the original discovery, but have to date been found to lack the high gold content. It is not unreasonable to assume that close prospecting of these veins will uncover other ore bodies.

Mr. R. G. MacDonald and B. W. Zachau and associates have taken a lease with option to buy the Stormcloud group from the discoverers. They have paid them over \$14,000.00 in payment and royalties to date. Shipments of about two tons, averaging about \$1000.00 per ton, are made weekly by express to the Selby smelter at Vallejo Junction, California.

Mr. MacDonald has exposed the vein by trenching along its apex for about 200 feet. Near the west end of the exposed portion of the vein a shallow tunnel and drift is driven east on the vein. Near the east end, an incline shaft is down about 65 feet. The shipping ore is derived from these workings. Eleven men employed.