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Item 24

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# PINTO DISTRICT

The Pinto District lies immediately north of Hwy 50 approximately eight miles east of Pinto Summit. The western part of the district, formerly called the Silverado district, occupies the Silverado Mountain area. The eastern part covers a narrow, northeast-trending ridge called the Alhambra Hills.

According to Nolan's (1974) geologic map of the Pinto Summit quadrangle (1:62,500), the district is almost wholly underlain by Devonian limestones and dolomites. East of Rescue Canyon, however, there are limited exposures of Tertiary ashflows and minor basalts. These rocks are separated from the Paleozoic rocks by a steep normal fault that runs along the western base of Silverado Mountain.

Like the Pancake Range to the south, the area is characterized by structurally isolated synforms and antiforms composed of overlapping thrust "sheets" of Paleozoic rocks. Some of these "sheets" are warped or gently folded and truncated by high-angle faults. Although Nolan (1974) observed that most of the mining within the quadrangle was located within the antiformal blocks, in the Pinto district, mineralization occurs within both synformal and antiformal structures.

Intermittent production of silver ore, including some of high grade, is recorded from the district between 1869 and 1922. Most of the ores came from mines in Rescue Canyon. Lead and copper were associated with these ores, but, on the whole, they contained very little gold.

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

Mines in the Alhambra Hills explore silver and lead-bearing quartz vein and replacement deposits within the Devils Gate and Nevada formations. In all cases the dposits are oxidized and occur within and adjacent to northeast-striking, steeply dipping faults and fracture zones. Mineralization observed in the silicated dump rock consists of galena, copper oxides, pyrite, and gossan. At the High Point mine, a sample of vuggy, mineralized quartz vein showed high values of arsenic, copper, lead, zinc, and tin (1,000 ppm).

Drilling near the mines in the south end of the hills was conducted in 1979. In 1980, Mars Mining was working a small open pit(?) operation below the High Point mine and reworking some of the dumps in the area. At the time of our examination, no work was in progress, but recent trenching and sampling had been done on the High Point claims to the south.

Most of the mining activity on Silverado Mountain has been in the northern and southern portions of the mountain's west flank. In the north, the mines are located on north-striking, high-angle faults in Devils Gate limestone. Vein and replacement deposits similar to those at the Alhambra Hills occur along the faults. At the Rescue mine(?), barite cements breccia and replaces the dolomitic host rocks. Exploration work within the last five years consists of drilling, trenching, and reworking of the dumps.

At the southern workings, mineralization is more obvious. Pods of crystalline galena, pyrite, and abundant copper and iron-oxide veinlets replace dolomite along fractured, north-striking fault zones.

All samples collected from the district contain anomalous to high tin. In some cases, the samples also show anomalous amounts of silver, arsenic, copper and barium.

A heap leach operation owned by Diamond Treasure Hill, Inc., Las Vegas, is located in the small basin northeast of the Alhambra Hills. At the time of our visit (1982), the operator was actively leaching reworked ores from the Silverado Mountain area and from mines in the Newark and Eureka mining districts.

## Selected References

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