

3730 0010

(216)

Item

#10

14

## BLACK HAWK DISTRICT

### LOCATION

The Black Hawk or Queen City mining district is located in the low hills on the southwest end of the Quinn Canyon range in the vicinity of Queen City summit. The mines and prospects of the district are located mainly north of State Route 375 in portions of Townships 2 and 3 South, Ranges 53 and 54 East, Nye County.

### HISTORY

Mercury was discovered in this area in 1929 by J. Mellon, and about 70 flasks of mercury were produced from the Black Hawk Mine between 1930-1935 (Holmes, 1959). Sporadic activity was reported from the district during 1936-1943 and 1955-1957, but no additional production has been recorded. At the time of our examination (Fall 1983) a large portion of the district had been recently staked and drilled. U.S. Minerals Exploration, Arvada, Colorado, is the claim holder, and exploration is, no doubt, for gold.

### GEOLOGIC SETTING

Paleozoic sedimentary rocks crop out on the west side of Queen City summit, and underlay the western portion of the district. Limestone of the Cambrian Nopah Formation is overlain on the east, near the summit, by a quartzitic sandstone. East of these Paleozoic outcrops, the remainder of the district is underlain by rhyolitic ash-flow tuffs of Pliocene age (Cornwall, 1972).

### ORE DEPOSITS

There is some confusion as to the location and geologic setting of the Black Hawk Mine. Bailey and Phoenix (1944) describe the Black Hawk occurrence as cinnabar found in botryoidal masses along the contact between sandstone and limestone. All other writers (Kral, 1951; Holmes, 1959; and our field crew, 1983) describe the Black Hawk occurrence as cinnabar found along shears in highly silicified volcanic rocks. Obviously there are two separate occurrences; Bailey and Phoenix saw one, all others saw the second. Kral, who was most familiar with local mine owners, placed the Black Hawk name on the occurrence in the tuffs, we will continue this usage. At the Black Hawk deposit, cinnabar occurs as blebs and veinlets in quartz and as coatings in vugs in silicified rhyolite tuff. Chalcedonic silica, jarosite, and fine-grained barite crystals were noted in the silicified rocks.

### GEOCHEMICAL RELATIONSHIPS

The one ore sample from this district contained, along with visible cinnabar, high arsenic, barium, and moderate antimony. This association is similar to that found in many other epithermal precious metal deposits.

## SELECTED REFERENCES

- Bailey, E. H., and Phoenix, D. A. (1944) Quicksilver deposits in Nevada: NBMG Bull. 41.
- Cornwall, H. R. (1972) Geology and mineral resources of southern Nye County, Nevada: NBMG Bull. 77.
- Holmes, G. H. (1959) Preliminary Examination, Black Hawk mercury mine, Nye County, Nevada: USBM Unpub. Report.
- Kral, V. E. (1951) Mineral resources of Nye County, Nevada: NBMG Bull. 50.