

3790 0013

183

NW-30-15  
Au, Ag,  
Clay?

Item 10

Mining District: RAMSEY DISTRICT  
(Gold, Silver, Clay?)

T. 18-19 N., R. 22-23-24 E.  
Storey, Lyon County, Nevada  
USGS Churchill Butte 15-min. quadrangle (1957)

#### GENERAL BACKGROUND

The Ramsey Area is located in northern Lyon County and eastern Storey County, in the Virginia Range about 5 miles south of Clark. Minerals were discovered in 1906. The Ramsey-Comstock Mine in section 34, T. 19 N., R. 23 E. is the most important property in the district and produced \$80,000 in gold and silver between 1906-1911 and \$36,000 between 1933-1937. The mine has been idle since 1937 because of decreasing ore values at depth.

The Gooseberry Mine in section 25, T. 19 N., R. 22 E. is the only other property that has received considerable interest in the area. Although no production has been recorded from the Gooseberry Mine, considerable development has been done.

Production for the entire area prior to 1940 was about \$373,000 (1), mainly in gold values.

#### GEOLOGICAL AND TECHNICAL DATA

The oldest rocks in the Ramsey area are propylitized, silicified, and argillized flows, breccias, and small intrusives of the Kate Peak Formation. Mesozoic granitic and metamorphic rocks that predate the Kate Peak Formation crop out southeast of the area. Ore mineralization in the area occurs in silicified fracture zones in the altered volcanic rocks.

Ore produced from the Ramsey-Comstock Mine came from a 10 foot wide tabular vein of gold-bearing quartz-diaspore-alunite rock that trends about N. 65° E. and dips 55° north. The ore values progressively decreased with depth.

Ore at the Gooseberry Mine reportedly occurs in a quartz-calcite vein that trends about N. 70° W. and dips 80° south. Ore mineralization consists of gold, silver, pyrite, chalcopyrite, and argentiferous tetrahedrite. According to Rose (2), grab samples of material from the dump assayed up to 1.14 ounces of gold and 69.0 ounces of silver per ton.

#### POTENTIAL FOR DEVELOPMENT

Decreasing ore tenor with depth at the Ramsey-Comstock Mine suggests that favorable values in the area were the result of secondary enrichment. If this is the case, a poor future potential for gold production from the Tertiary section in the Ramsey area is indicated. Some of the old proper-

Bennett, Dec. 1972

ties could be reopened in anticipation of the discovery of additional ore bodies; however, the high cost of renovating abandoned workings make it unlikely. Additionally, the potential for the discovery of mineralization in the basement rocks is unlikely inasmuch as approximately 1500 feet of the Kate Peak Formation and an unknown thickness of other Tertiary volcanic rocks (probably in excess of 1500 feet) underlie the Ramsey area.

In 1966, Rose (op.cit.) reported the Gooseberry Mine as being the only active gold-silver prospect in the area. Considerable exploration was underway at that time, but the absence of subsequent production suggests that the ore tenor is too low to mine profitably at the present time. The property is apparently being kept in stand-by condition, but whether any production will occur remains unseen. Past workings in the Ramsey District consist of numerous prospect pits, shafts, and adits. Most of the older workings are now caved. Future workings, if any, would probably be underground.

Although Ramsey is considerably more inaccessible than some other areas, the more highly argillized rocks could be a future source of common clay.

#### COMPANIES AND CLAIMANTS ACTIVE IN AREA

The following list identifies some of the claimants in the Ramsey area:

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| <p>1. SAN JUAN Group<br/>G. B. Hartley Jr., et.al.<br/>642 St. Lawrence, Reno<br/>May 1972<br/>(6 lode claims)</p> | <p>2. RED DEVIL #1<br/>S. K. Igore<br/>Aug. 1952<br/>(1 lode claim)</p>  |
| <p>3. BONNIE Group<br/>R. Gilson<br/>Aug. 1931<br/>(10 lode claims)</p>  | <p>4. GOOSEBERRY Group<br/>E. L. Martin et.al.<br/>Guarantee Savings Bldg.<br/>1171 Fulton, Fresno, Calif.<br/>1930's, 1950's, 1960's<br/>(56 lode claims)</p> |

#### 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)
2. Rose: Geology of Parts of the Wadsworth and Churchill Buttes Quadrangles, Nevada; Nev. Bur. Mines and Geol. Bull. 71, 1969.

#### FIELD EXAMINATION

Bennett, Nov. 1972

Bennett, Dec. 1972

Gooseberry Mine  
(Gold, silver)

Ramsey-Comstock Mine  
(Gold, silver)

USGS Churchill Butte  
15-min. quadrangle (1957)

66a

*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*