3820 0001

Gold-silver

Scouting report -- Geoventures

NEVADA
MINERAL COUNTY
RAWHIDE DISTRICT (REGENT DISTRICT)

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Item 1

References: USGS AMS series topographic map, Reno sheet
Nevada Bur. Mines Bull. 58, "Geology and Mineral Deposits of Mineral County, Nevada", 1961

Geology: The country rock of the district is principally rhyolite, described in Bull. 58 as pre-Esmeralda Tertiary. Much of the outcropping rock that I saw was tuffaceous, partly welded, and I suspect that some of the rhyolite is intrusive -- plugs and dikes. The district is small and intensively explored -- a dozen or more major shafts and adits and scores of shallower workings are concentrated in an area of not more than two square miles. Throughout the district, the country rock is mildly iron-stained and kaolinized, and locally the alteration is more intense. I could not figure out whether the intense alteration is always associated with ore, but at least in places it is.

The veins are shear zones with associated small stringers and discontinuous lenses of quartz; outcropping veins that I saw consisted of only half an inch or less of quartz, even immediately adjacent to stoped sections of vein. Within a few feet of the veins -- the foot or two of sheared rock and also in the more solid rock alongside it -- there are small lenses of quartz, a few inches long and one-fourth inch wide; possibly these carry values. The quartz is comby, with narrow vugs along the center of most veins. In dump material I found also some discontinuous films of pyrite, some associated with quartz stringers, but from the presence of this material on dumps in some abundance, I conclude that it carries very low values at most.

According to Bull. 58, the Rawhide district produced about 1.5 million dollars in gold and silver between its discovery in 1096 and 1920. Reportedly, much of this production was made by leasers. From this information and the appearance of the veins, I conclude that orebodies were small and narrow, though locally high grade.

Geophysical Possibilities: On the East, north and west sides the district is bounded by fairly good outcrops; since they have been little explored by the old timers, it is fairly safe to conclude that they are barren. At the south edge of the district is an area about 1,000' in diameter that is largely alluvium-covered; a few shafts have been sunk through the alluvium to bedrock, but hardly enough to explore it thoroughly.

There is a possibility that undiscovered orebodies lie under this alluvium. Judging by the dumps, sulfides are present at depths of two to three hundred feet. Also judging by the dumps, there is at most about 5% sulfides in any of the rock -- pyrite disseminated as grains and discontinuous films; however, I don't knowwhether or not this pyrite is associated with ore. It seems to me that there is not much to be gained by geophysical work in this district: the odds for picking up any sulfides with IP are not very good; if sulfides are recognized, there is no assurance that they are associated with ore; and if ore is found, it is likely to be in small bodies, not very tempting today.

Recommendations: This district is not worth geophysical work. There is a small possibility that geologic mapping would indicate a structure worth geophysical exploration.

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District scouted March 27, 1965

Arthur Baker III