

RAWHIDE, ITS PAST, PRESENT AND THE FUTURE  
by  
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The mining history of Rawhide, Nev., is a record of events, some private, more public, but all obtainable. The fact that Rawhide was born during a panic and survived may be taken as a measure of the inducements the pioneers had for "Staying with it".

During the panic money was scarce by having been withdrawn from circulation which probably accounts for Rawhide's hills looking like a friend with a safety deposit box.

There were two banks in Rawhide at that time; they failed; but the town recovered because, while there were no banks to mine on there was a strong belief that there were mines to bank on.

The heart of Rawhide was burned and business paralyzed, but the mines escaped unscorched. The heroic and oppressive silence of the heaviest losers was brief. The din of the reconstruction crew drowned the crackle of the dying embers.

The town was and is dependent on the mines. Finally the deluge swept the town and everything moveable moved. But the mines were anchored. Through all these events the outside world looked on in admirable sympathy.

Promoters used these calamities to gain a hearing with the emotional investor (if there be such a being). Literature descriptive of Rawhide never failed to cast a graveyard gloom over the birth and youth of the camp. Writers wilfully misconstrued a few natural incidents and used them as subject matter for sentimental verbosity and quantitative boosting.

An impression in the gray matter of the unanalytic is a fixture. Lack of independent thought has perpetuated the idea that quartz is a necessary and ever-present associate of gold.

Not very long ago there were but two kinds of gold mining, viz.: "placer" and "quartz". Nevada is one of the many places that offers substantial contradiction and Rawhide in particular presents a load of evidence that gold may be found in rocks of varying and different compositions. Discussions of ore deposits are finally being tolerated.

However imperfect or impracticable any theoretical discourse may be there can be no doubt that the only reliable source of information concerning an ore deposit is the ore deposit and its surroundings, and the only means of acquiring this information is a correct interpretation of the geological agencies that have operated, the evidence of which being found in the effects they produce.

## Local and Geological

Rawhide lies in a shallow hollow surrounded by three hills, in such a position that connecting lines through them would form a triangle, which with the base running through Baloon and Grutt hills, would throw the apex in Hooligan.

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Lying outside this triangle to the north is the property of the Bethania Mines Inc., and to the south the Con. Mines Co. The ground within this triangle and its important surroundings are mineral bearing. Rock records at times are blurred.

When reasoning backward from effect to cause, later development frequently proves the final effect to be the product of a series of causes, and often our first interpretation is only half right, and sometimes wholly wrong.

One statement that may be made with emphasis is that rocks under and around Rawhide have been charged with gold and silver values, the uncertain position of which has brought disappointment to the over-ambitious. In places gold predominates, in other silver minerals are found exclusively, and again a wide range of ratios of silver to gold values are met with.

One attractive feature of the rock relations of the district is the strong, though inconclusive evidence, of there having been several separate and distinct enrichments. Another is the apparent occurrence of contiguous primary and secondary values.

The rocks of Hooligan hill represent the older formation of the district; recent development indicates, further, that the later flows of igneous rocks encircled Hooligan hill when it stood decidedly higher above the surrounding land.

The underlying rhyolite of Hooligan hill is the oldest rock of the hill so far penetrated; it is found in a fractured condition, brought about probably by a torsional strain in the earth's crust, as distinguished from an adjustment movement as in a fault plane or other linear displacement.

Following some of the lines of fracture, gold and silver minerals and products of oxidation are evident. Later the andesitic rock which forms the core of the hill accentuated the sheared condition of rhyolite by interposition, presenting alternate exposures of rhyolite and andesite, each different in size and position.

Deeper workings in camp shows a series of rhyolitic flows, and there being no evidence of violent upheavals since that time, presumably the earlier flow is on the bottom.

At Sugar Loaf or Basalt Peak, approximately three miles southwesterly, there are that which appears to be the remnants of a crater. The peak rises as a volcanic neck or plug. The surrounding topography presents a succession of ridges and gulches which, when view from the summit, run radially from the peak, these ribs or ridges being preserved, I infer, by the siliceous emanations of dying volcanism filling and lifting the rocks shattered in radial form.

The period of regional rhyolitic flows had ended prior to this intrusion. This observation is substantiated by local evidence of volcanic influences; secoracious material and volcanic ash underlies Rawhide, where there is no obvious proof of a violent discharge of volcanic material, the thermal effects of this otherwise hidden force is met in every working in camp. The textural nature of these consecutive flows suggests that they were spread over dry land.

The thermal effects throughout the camp calls for a liberal supply of water. The west slope of Hooligan hill presents fairly conclusive evidence of the hill having been submerged under water. Disintegrated conditions of surface rocks can best be explained by supposing them to have been under water. The foregoing sequence of geological probabilities call for a regional subsidence subsequent to the rhyolitic flows and a later uplift. This inferred uplift must have been rapid, but not violent, because of the absence of shore lines incident to the gradual receding of the water.

Further the summit between Rawhide and Schurz seems to be a dividing line. Presumably water covered the land where Rawhide now is, and west to and including Walker Lake. An uplift which took effect from the northwest-southeast summit left the westerly half to dry by evaporation, leaving the shore lines on the hillsides as mute evidence of the slow process.

During this period of submergence, I take it, the struggling and riotous child geyser of the subdued volcano, the remains of which were partly uncovered under the Rawhide post office, found a playground in and under Balloon hill. The presence of cellular rocks decreasing in porosity towards the center, found in the center of the district, duplicates conditions to be seen at the rims of geysers now active elsewhere.

The kaolinized condition of igneous rocks so prevalent in and around Balloon hill, leads to the belief that the circulating solutions were alkaline. This idea is borne out by the presence of crystals of brucite and calcite, these being fairly abundant in workings, particularly where chemical alteration has been profound.

#### Rawhide Ores

The presence of persistent pay streaks in Grutt hill, associated directly or indirectly with siliceous infiltrations, into country rock along lines of fracture, is in strong contrast with the high-grade pockets wholly free from siliceous material found in Balloon hill.

Connection has not been established between all known ore bodies of Balloon hill; or in fact between known ore bodies of each of the three hills. A small stope 3 by 12 by 15 ft. in the northeast corner of Balloon hill produced \$12,000 in silver and gold, silver predominating.

Six hundred feet south from the above stope, a few small stopes of insignificant dimensions, with a total area of one 3 by 30 by 36 ft. netted \$45,000 in gold. The former was found in fractured planes of hard rock, the latter near a body of less altered rocks. On the same hill a recent discovery produced \$10,000 from a typical quartz veins while sinking a 3 by 3 ft hole 100 ft. deep. Again \$5000 exclusively in silver, was netted from an 8 by 10 by 10 ft. working, the ore of which occurred in a snow-white amorphous soft, taley material of the steatite variety. Further ore has been found on Balloon hill in rock too hard for rapid or economical hand-work, hence in limited quantity. This ore differs from the others in the ratio of gold to silver, in being a silicified breccia, made by an intrusion of a rhyolitic rock into a silicified sedimentary, the second silification, which presumably was the medium of enrichment, finding its way through the less resistant rhyolite, and occasionally by a physical opening through the included fragments of a silicified sedimentary. This, therefore is an ore caused by an enrichment, accompanied by a silification of floors and fragments of a silicified sedimentary fused, blended, and surrounded by an intruding rhyolitic rock. On the same hill ore is found in a shear zone with values in and surrounding the dismembered rock.

The foregoing is by no means a complete account of Balloon hill ores. On each of the other two hills the variety is not so great, but great enough to compel the "cock-sure" quartz miner to change his views and methods, or walk out of the camp "broke".

Thus the problems being solved by the remaining band of leasers who are getting wise to unusual ore occurrences, will form a valuable addition to the present voluminous library devoted to gold ores, their origin and distribution, when thoroughly worked out and carefully written.

There is more ore, ranging from \$5 to \$40 per ton, in sight in the mines today than at any previous time. Ore bodies are taking on an individuality that is encouraging to operators and owners. Ores that are apparent to the casual observer, and ledges, the physical features of which are pronounced, afford little or no trouble.

With other important ore deposits, however, found in rock, bewildering in their total lack of obvious characteristics, much patience and untiring care must be exercised. Through a growing familiarity with the more obscure type of Rawhide ores profitable mining is being conducted.

Some of these ore deposits offer exceptional opportunity for the more reckless operators. At this stage of development, when a few generalities have been proven to a reasonable certainty, a courageous plunge into a breast of "traces" has been justified by the results. When gold and silver minerals are found in quartz ledges, distinct and different from the country rock, the finder is fortunate.

When, however, by any process equally valuable, minerals are deposited in discouraging irregularity, emphatic and prophetic, favorable or adverse conclusions are premature.

#### Deductions

Surface alteration and incidental block settlement in Rawhide have rendered the surface ores elusive and treacherous. In the deeper workings greater continuity, more system and less confusion are found, and conditions are being observed that is leading to a better understanding of surface ores. Ore reserves of Rawhide have been uncovered in greater quantity in the past 6 months than during the 18 previous.

The growing need of the camp is adequate milling facilities. With efficient mills on the ground, the necessary money for immediate development would be available. That money accruing therefrom would be used for that purpose is a fair assumption because, in the natural order of things, all except those having a fixed purpose have left.

#### Introspection

Rawhide, since the day of its christening has been a noisy kid of stunted growth. Many plausible and euphonious explanations might be offered, but however much other things have operated, the enormous burden of chance-juggling opportunists has had its effect; but no more so than the boisterous bands of burlesque philanthropists, offering the members of a suffering race a realization of their most avaricious dreams with 500% interest.

Rawhide is outliving the errors of its youth, a few of its undesirable companions of earlier days are still hanging around, but, slowly and surely with silent, though effective indignation, it is severing the bonds that now feebly bind the blatant bluff of 1907, to the active mines of 1910. The gambling, stock-jobbing, spreadeagle booster, and the vampires of the industry have been forced to leave by dint of circumstances.

As a mining camp Rawhide is sounder today than ever. Less is being said and heard of it, more is being done. Rawhide is destined to be, I believe a liberal producer of gold and silver, to say nothing of a liberal educator to the gullible investor who heretofore has failed to analyze the hollow pretensions of the rosy prospectus and the green-eyed author.