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Item 4

SKOOKUM DISTRICT

The Skookum mining district is located on the low rolling hills of Vigus Butte, 8 miles northwest of Austin in T19 and 20N, R42 and 43E in Lander County. Access to the district is from the west along good dirt roads, which are occasionally washed out by the Reese River, from Nevada State Highway 8A, north of U.S. Highway 50.

Mineralized quartz fragments were found in the district in 1907 by an Indian who then sold the discovery to the LeMaire brothers of Battle Mountain. Operations commenced in 1908 with rich silver and gold ore being produced. The subsequent stampede of claim stakers and tent towns of Skookum and Greenah lasted only months. By the fall of 1908, most of the miners were gone and by 1912 the hills were as bare as before (Hill, 1915, Stager, 1977). A small amount of ore was produced in 1914 (Lincoln, 1923), but there has been no recorded activity until the late 1960's when Humble Oil (Exxon) staked the district and explored for disseminated gold. Early production ran 750 ounces silver to 1 ounce of gold (Hill, 1915). The Greenah Mine had the largest production of the district with values up to $100,000 in gold and silver.

Vigus Butte is a series of low rolling hills underlain by the north striking, dark, fine-grained quartzite beds of the Ordovician Valmy Formation that are overlain and intruded by Tertiary volcanics. An augite andesite flow covers a large portion of the hills (Hill, 1915). The metasediments are cut by small gold and silver bearing, highly fractured, white, crystalline quartz veins which follow faults and fractures and cement breccia zones on the south and southwest side of Vigus Butte. Some veins show post-mineralization brecciation and faulting (Hill, 1915). The ore minerals are argentiferous tetrahedrite, minor pyrite intergrown with quartz, and small quantities of copper and lead oxides. A thin film of chrysocolla coats fracture surfaces. The mineralization of the district is post-Triassic and pre-Tertiary (Hill, 1915, Stager, 1977).

J. Tingley + P. Smith (1982) Mineral Inventory of Eureka-Shoshone Resource Area: NBMG OFR ~~82-10~~ 83-3

The two main workings of the Skookum district are the Greenah (LeMaire) Mine and, 1 1/2 miles south, the Skookum (Walt) Mine. The 6 main shafts of the Greenah Mine lie along a N25W trend with underground workings totaling more than 1,000 feet. The workings follow a 2-4 foot wide brecciated quartz vein with the ore unevenly distributed along the vein (Hill, 1915). Since the workings are collared in alluvium, there are no outcroppings of country rock to observe.

The Skookum property follows a north striking quartz vein and fault zone. A rhyolite dike was observed at depth (Hill, 1915). The main shaft is 100 feet deep with more than 500 feet of crosscuts. The numerous trenches and pits which dot the district follow other narrow quartz veins. No recent activity was observed in the district.

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