4480 0003

(339)
Item 3

Bonita

Benson, Arizona
March 7, 1943

Mr. T. B. Nolan
U. S. Geological Survey
Washington, D. C.

Snake Creek Placer, White Pine Co., Nevada

Dear Tom:

In December 1940 I made a cursory reconnaissance of the Bonita mine area on Snake Creek, east side of the Snake Range, but do not have my notes with me now. The following information is from T. E. Wessel, who is now working as carpenter at Minerva, and has discussed the area with me several timesin the past 6 months. Wessel is full of "bull"; however, his information seems encouraging enough to warrant an examination when weather and time permit. It will be several months before the canyon is accessible -- because of snow.

T. E. Wessel (Box 140, East Ely, Nevada) and L. L. Clark (Box 165, Kimberley, Nevada) hold 2 placer claims in Snake Canyon below the Bonita mine. I believe that Wessel also has the Bonita claims now. The placer claims are leased by James T. Hayden, but there is some question about the present standing of the lease.

O.K.

The placer is reported to extend at least 1,200 feet down canyon, tobe 400 feet wide at the bottom, 200 feet wide at the top. Depth is unknown. Forty pits have been dug 6 to 10 feet deep, and 4 shafts sunk 24, 25, and 12 feet deep. The shafts did not find bedrock, and were stopped at water level. Water is plentiful, for Snake Creek flows throughout the year except for a few winter months when it is frozen. The scheelite recovered from the pits varied in size from 10 mesh up to nuggets weighing 10 pounds. The average grade of 146 samples taken was 0.14% of WO_3, or 2.8 pounds of WO_3 to the ton. Wessel treated 110 yards and recovered 600 pounds of concentrate that assayed 18% of WO_3 (about 1 pound per yard).

Wessel believes that the work done indicates 200,000 yards of pay gravel.

The December ground about which you inquired on March 3 probably lies downstream from Wessel's claims.

Although the Bonita mine apparently contains no workable ore, it well might give rise to a substantial placer, for there are numerous stringers of quartz with sporadic lenses of high grade scheelite both in the quartzite and in the granite. Atkins-Kroll worked the Bonita in the last war. When I saw Dave Atkins in San Francisco in January, he told me that they had not sampled the placer, but thought there might be a good chance for concentration.

If I have a car available, and weather permits, I will try to visit the area this spring. I should also like to see some workings located near the crest of Mt. Wheeler and worked off and on for many years by Timberline Johnson. The latter area will not be accessible before July.

Sincerely yours,

Dwight M. Lemmon

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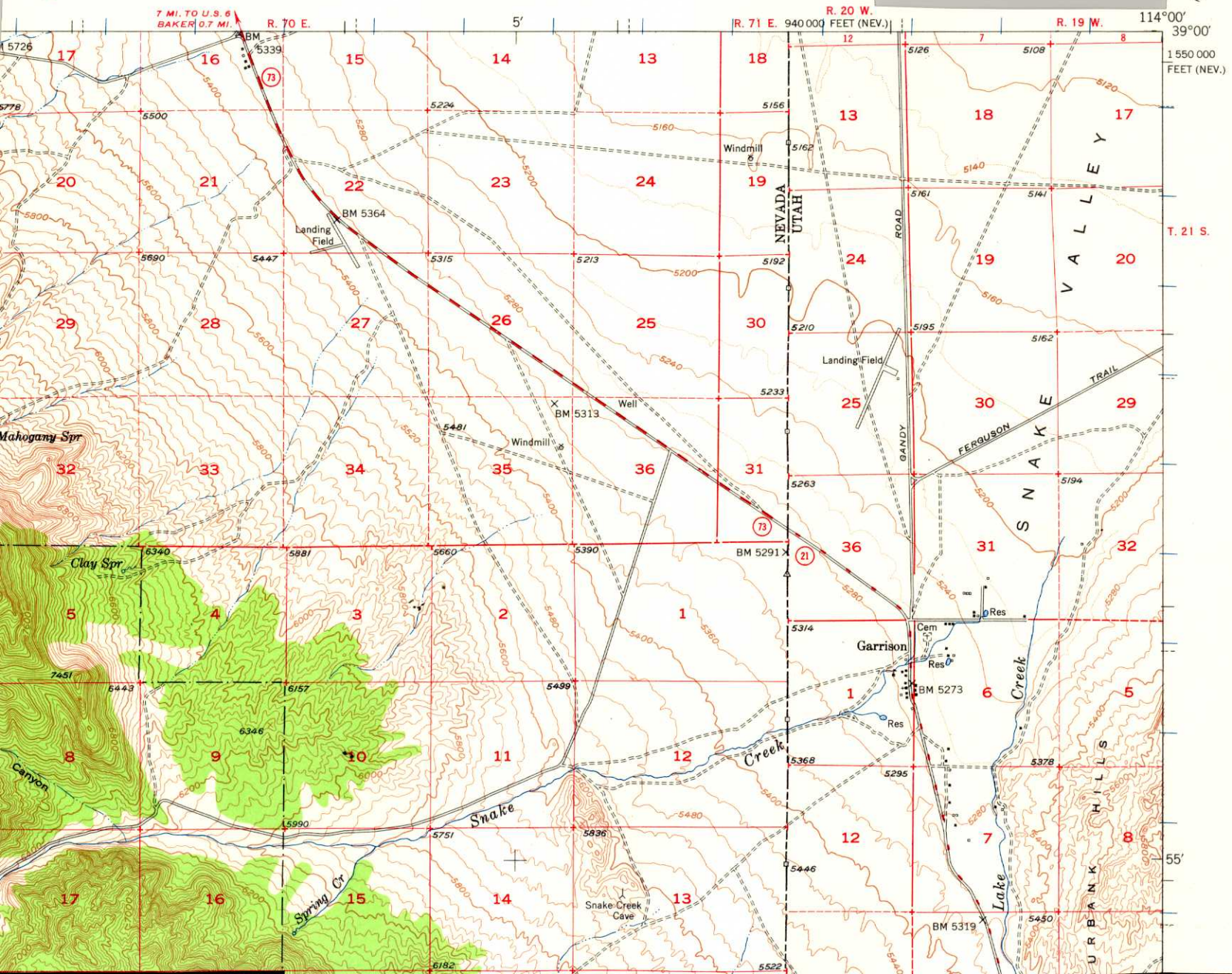
339 Item 3

(FISH SPRINGS)
1:250 000



4480 0003

339
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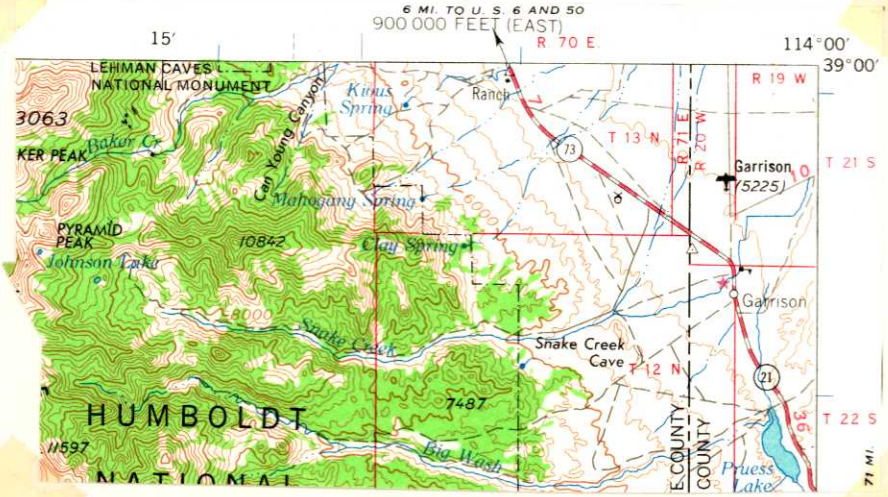
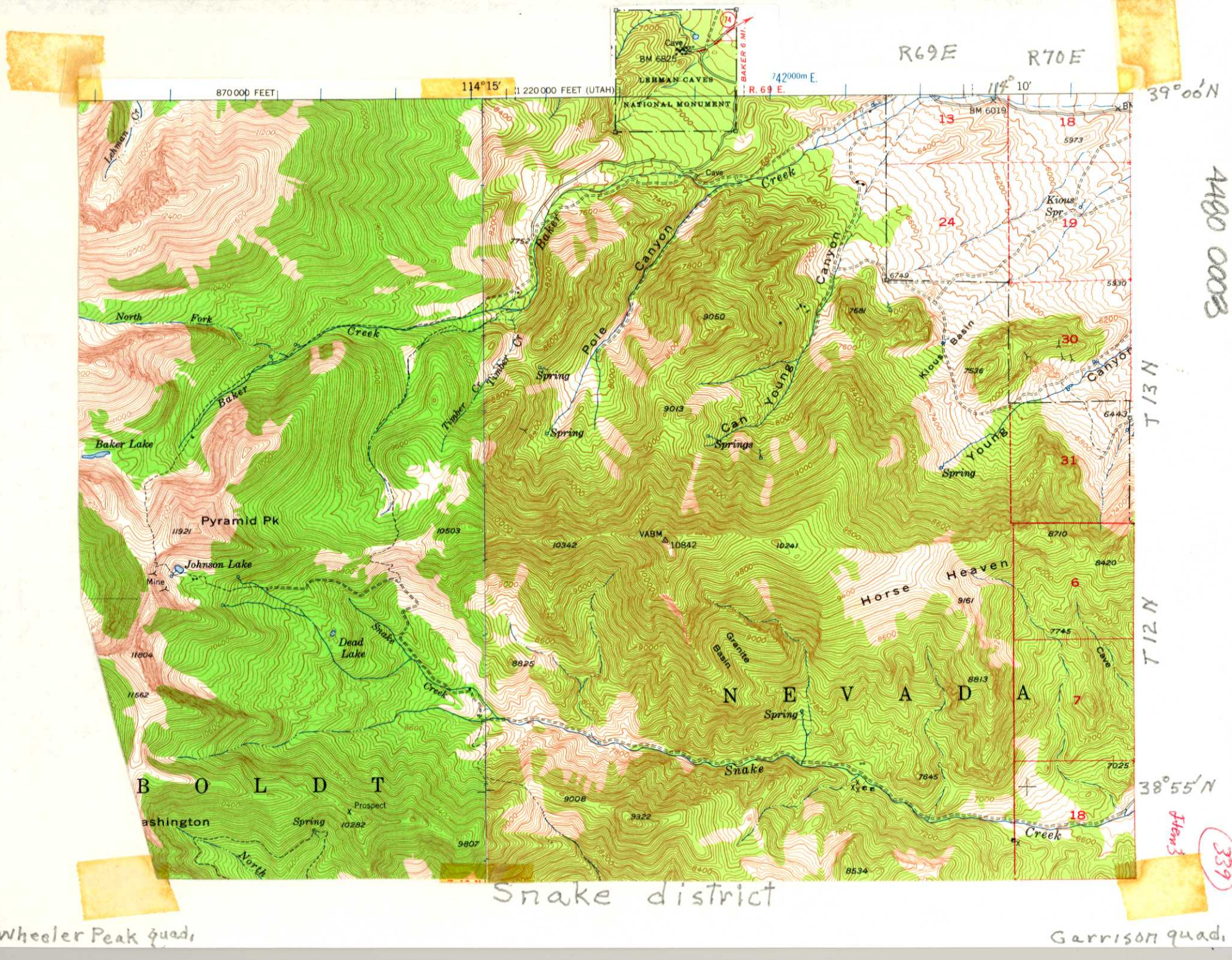


Snake district

Scale 1:250,000



Snake district

Wheeler Peak quad.

Garrison quad.

4480 000E

Atlas 339

4480 0003

Hal :- The mine above Johnson Lake is a tungsten mine. My deep could make it to the lake. It would take all day to walk to the mine and back. I didn't

SNAKE

MR 1913 pt. 1, p 356

Nevada---

"On snake Creek, Bonita district, White Pine County, J. D. Tilford & Co. commenced work on scheelite-bearing veins. An experimental mill, with a capacity of 2 tons each 24 hours, was set up, and a shipment of concentrates was made. Baker is the nearest postoffice"

MR 1915 p. 825 ---The scheelite deposit and mill at Camp Bonita, ---owned by John D. Tilford, were operated under bond and lease by Atkins, Kroll & Co., who also investigated other properties in the region.

MR 1916 On the east side of the range the John D. Tilford claims on Snake Creek, 20 miles southwest of Baker, and other claims higher up Snake Creek made some production, and promising claims a few miles south on Lexington Canyon were prospected. scheelite — data on ? — copied

MR 1929 *Snake (Bonita) district.*—Seven tons of lead ore were shipped from the Poljack claim in Youngs Canyon, Snake district.

~~1955-63 See Start~~

4480 0003

SNAKE DISTRICT

(Snake Mountain, Lexington

339

Item 3

Raymond, 1870, p. 180

Raymond, 1870 p. 180

Twenty-five miles north of Shoshone is the Snake Mountain district on the eastern slope of that range. The district is well wooded and watered. The mines carry rich sulphurets of silver and are distant sixty-five miles from Fillmore City, Utah, where provisions can be bought cheap.

White, 1871, p. 84

for 1869-1870

SNAKE DISTRICT.

This district was organized in February, 1869. It is twelve miles east from Sacramento District, on the eastern slope of the mountain. The country rock is granite. Specimens of ore have been found which assay finely, but there is not sufficient encouragement to justify the expenditure of much capital or labor in developments.

Whitehill, 1875, p 77

for 1873-1874

SNAKE VALLEY DISTRICT.

This district was organized November tenth, eighteen hundred and seventy-three, and is situated in the foothills, on the eastern slope of Jeff. Davis Mountain, the eastern boundary of the district being the State line. A few locations have been made here, but little work has been done on any of them. The formation is granite in the northern part of the district, and limestone and granite in the southern part. The facilities for mining and milling cannot be excelled in this section of the State. There is a good supply of both wood and water. Timber for lumber can be obtained within a short distance of the mines. Several fine ranches are near by, in Snake Valley. Some of the best stock ranges in the State are found in this vicinity. The one belonging to Mr. Zehman is, perhaps, the finest one in eastern Nevada.

Whitehill, 1877, p. 171

for 1875-76

SNAKE VALLEY DISTRICT.

Some locations were made here shortly after the discovery of the district; but little work has ever been done. The organization was effected about three years ago. The prevailing rocks are limestone and granite. Wood and water are in plentiful abundance. Some good stock ranges and ranches are found in the adjoining valley.

Raymond 1877 for 1875 p. 195

The Snake range, the most eastern in the county and State, has been little prospected, by reason of its isolation and ruggedness, (two summits rising 11,000 and 12,000 feet, respectively,) and the reported numbers of rattlesnakes which infest it; otherwise, it is to be presumed, from the occurrence of igneous rocks and the great diversity of others, that it could contribute its quota to the wealth of Eastern Nevada. In timber and water it far surpasses the neighboring ranges, and it even contains here and there a lake to give variety to its scenery.

1883 Lexington

Placer Scheelite in Lexington Canyon (a different deposit from the one in the application)

Snake Creek Placer examined in May 42 by M.R. Klepper

12 to 25 feet of overburden containing scheelite. Scheelite is wholly free. From 525# of gravel there were recovered 2461# concentrate 64% in 4# mill feed was evidently about .40% grade.

Do plans to trommel the gravel, sending -1½" to mill, sorting the +1½ before sending to mill. In this way they hope to make .4 to .5% feed.

Probably 12,000 tons of gravel exists

Capacity 2½ tons per hr. 3 shifts

visited deposit in May 1942;

U.S.G.S. reports 12,000 tons of gravel indicated, 4# WO_3 per ton which will be raised to 8# by screening. The owners estimate 92,000 yds. with a ~~total WO_3~~ content of 2,300 units WO_3. The project seems destined to failure.

SNAKE ~~CANYON~~ PLACER

110 yards → 600 # 18 ¢

200 000 yards blocked — 24, 25, 29 ~~Jul~~ & Walter Cl.

40 holes 6 to 10 feet

4 holes 24, 25, 12 feet deep in schelite 10 mesh up to 10 #

~~Hanson grade~~ — pay shoots —

Average grade 0.14 %.

146 samples → average $0.81

2 Placer claims owned by T. E. Wessel. Box 140, East Ely, Nevada
L. L. Clark Box 165, Kimberley (Alpha #2 in Kimberley)
James J Hayden, lessee
connected with Walter Hardt Jobs.

1200 feet down canyon
400' wide at bottom
200' in narrows -

Bonita leased to (?)

Information from Wessel 2-19-43.

18
600
30 108.11 WO3
5.4 units

No Card 4480 0003 file Snake

5172 (339) Item 3

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
WASHINGTON

Benson, Arizona
March 7, 1943

Mr. T. B. Nolan
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Sincerely yours,
Dwight
Dwight M. Lemmon

.18
600
108.00 lb. WO_3

Cleared with Juliens Office (Letters) 3/12 by phone L.R.

4480 0003

(339)
Item 3

Snake Creek (Bonita) — SNAKE DIST.

Scheelite occurs in narrow quartz veins in shale and quartzite on the south side of Snake Creek in sec. 18, T. 12 N., R. 70 E., Garrison quadrangle. The Bonita mine was worked by John D. Tilford in 1913 and 1916, and leased to Atkins, Kroll, and Co. in 1915. A small mill was built, and some concentrate produced, possibly 500 to 1,000 units. The Snake Creek valley below the Bonita mine contains scheelite placer reported to average 1 to 3 pounds of WO_3 per ton.

4480 0003

(DWIGHT M. LEMMON'S NOTES) Bonita (339) Nev. 3

December 10, 1940

TRIP TO EAST SIDE SNAKE RANGE.

Left Shoshone P.O. at 7:00 A.M., Baker at 8:45. Saw Beck at garage (Ralph Kaufmann's partner) and met Loper who owns property on Lexington Creek. Went up Snake Creek to Timberline Johnson's cabin.

About 6 miles up Snake Creek from the Baker—Garrison road is the Bonita Mine which was productive during the war. The frame for the old mill stands near the road South of the canyon. Water was obtained by a ditch from Snake Creek. The mine, reached by a caterpillar road, lies on the slope above the mill to the South, 750' ± higher, and the ore was teamed out.

Small quartz veins containing scheelite and sulfides (including pyrite, galena) lie in shaly quartzite. The veins strike Northerly (one observation N15°E) and dip nearly vertically (slightly E). There appear to be several parallel or en echelon veins, probably lenticular and narrow (1'+). At least 4 adits (mostly caved at portals) have been driven and possibly connected.

No tailings were visible near the mill.

The country rock is probably Pioche Shale. The mine lies on a dip slope, the bedding striking NW and dipping N.E. The overlying limestone crops in massive cliffs above the mine, and the same contact occurs 150' N of the road across the canyon from the mill.

The blocky nature of the shaly quartzite necessitates timbering of underground workings.

The general impression is that the veins are small and discontinuous, and unlikely to be very productive

((4460 0003

Near the head of the canyon is an area of coarse grained ~~porph~~ biotite granite, the texture of which is locally glomeroporphyritic. The granite appears to be at the core of a major dome in the Paleozoic sedimentary rocks. Cutting through the granite are thin pegmatite veins, one to 4 inches thick and consisting of glassy quartz with mica, occasional feldspar, scheelite, beryl, topaz, and pyrite. The granite within 2-4 inches of those veins is altered to an aggregate of mica and quartz. No scheelite was seen in the vein from which the beryl came, but other small veinlets contain abundant WO_3 in light colored euhedral xls.

In the cirque above Treasure lake Timberline Johnson has a scheelite mine (not visited) in a vein that extends over 6 claims. Specimens of ore contain subhedral and euhedral masses of yellow brown scheelite in milky quartz. There was formerly a small mill here, but it was recently destroyed by a snow slide. The mine lies in granite, and can be reached by road. Name of claims: Blimp (recently re-named).

Johnson has worked in this area ~~for~~ since 1908 (32 yrs), is now 70 yrs old. Has driven 1400 feet of drift.

In Lexington canyon 2 canyons south of Snake canyon are other scheelite deposits, one of which, the Bonanza, was productive during the war. ~~and~~ It and the Bonita are the only 2 former producers. West of the Bonanza, the Olsen brothers have leased another property owned by Loper, and have done some work during this year. They milled a small tonnage at Goodey's mill

((4180 0005

west of Osceola.

The headwaters of Snake Creek have been glaciated (picture), a cirque and moraines being visible.

Near the forest boundary at the mouth of the canyon is a belt of quartzite 150'-200' thick, possibly the Eureka quartzite.

Dec 10, 1940 - R.M.

BLACK HORSE DISTRICT

The Black Horse district lies about 2 miles North of Sadie's east of Sacramento Pass. Numerous workings for gold are widely distributed. On claims owned by "Butch" Moyle and associates, Scheelite bearing rock has been found in a tabular body that strikes and dips . The main ore zone appears to be along a shared zone at the contact of shale (N) and lst (S). The ore has been traced 400'± along the strike, and is about feet thick. A few open cuts along the vein are the only development. tons of ore milled at Gordey's mill yielded units WO_3. The dumps show some good looking pieces. The ore consists of Scheelite bearing quartz stringers and lenses, but does have a fairly persistent structure. Lack of development precludes estimate of tonnage, the maximum expectable possibly being 21,600 tons of 1.5% WO_3 rock (400' long, 2' wide, 50' deep = 40000 ft³ dim by 15) or 3900 units WO_3. The possibilities of the property are sufficiently encouraging to warrant more development on a royalty basis but not to warrant more than a few hundred dollars down payment.

Rocks in the area consist of thin-bedded blue and gray limestones that strike east-west and dip south 20° to 40° with the slope of the hill. The sediments, about a mile northwest of the property, are intruded by a small granitic stock. A nearly vertical east-trending dike, about 20 feet thick, cuts the formations 500 feet north of the principal pit workings.

The tungsten mineralization as scheelite occurs in quartz seams as scattered crystals that vary in size from ½ to 1 inch. The mineralization is not restricted to any particular set of fractures nor is there a localization within a particular bed, and not all of the quartz seams are scheelite-bearing.

In the pit workings, the limestones are broken by numerous quartz-filled fractures that strike northeast to east with steep dips north.

The fractures carrying scheelite are thin and too widely spaced to provide for a high-grade mining operation, and the intervening rock carries too little disseminated scheelite to mine as large scale low-grade operation.

The assay results of samples taken from the better mineralized sections varied from 0.04 to 6.75 percent WO_3 that averaged less than 1.0 percent WO_3.

Development workings on the property consist of 5 open cuts of varying depth, and length, 2 shafts, 10 and 17 feet deep, a northward-trending adit 130 feet in length, and a large pit area 360 feet long and 60 feet wide.

From the pit area about 500 tons of selected and sorted ore were produced and shipped that contained less than 1.0 percent WO_3, during 1916 and 1917. No production is reported since that time.

No card in Bibliog. file Snake dist.

339
Item 3

Nevada's Jeweled Cavern

By NELL MURBARGER 1952

As Absolam Lehman, Nevada pioneer, drove his heavy logging team across the pine-clad flank of Mount Wheeler one morning, seventy years ago, he little supposed that only a few inches of earth separated him from one of the most spectacular caverns in the western United States.

Knowledge of the cave's existence came to him precipitately when one of the horses stepped on a section of the rock ceiling that was too thin to bear his additional weight, and the animal crashed through into the glistening fairyland beneath.

Lehman and several adventurous neighbors later explored a number of the more accessible passages. While the flickering candles, which provided their only means of illumination, made scarcely any impression on the midnight blackness within, the men could glimpse enough to know that they were traversing a grotto of breathtaking beauty.

Advancing between Gargantuan stalagmites and high, fluted stone columns, the exploring party found its way into great underground chambers banked with white terraces, studded with stalactites and hung with delicately-folded stone draperies. The roof of the passageway occasionally dropped so low that they were forced to creep on hands and knees; at other points the high, vaulted ceiling disappeared in the darkness above.

Word of the remarkable discovery soon spread to surrounding towns. In those days, however, few strangers found their way into this remote section of eastern Nevada, and except for residents of that immediate vicinity, the cave remained virtually unknown for half a century.

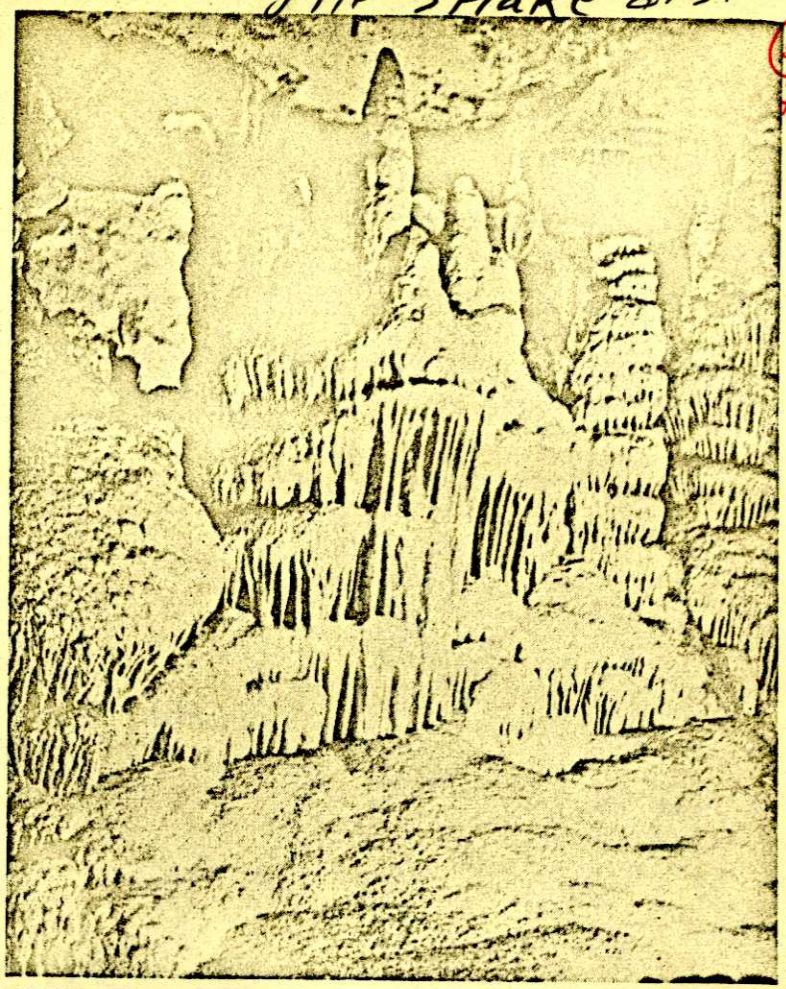
With eventual realization that here lay one of the major scenic attractions of the West, the area was set aside in 1922 as Lehman Caves National Monument under National Park Service administration.

Since its acquisition by the Department of the Interior, additional passageways in the cave have been opened to head-height, a $15,000 indirect lighting system installed, trails built, and a campground established. Yet, even today, the place remains little known to the traveling public.

Escorted through the winding corridors by park rangers, Lehman's visitors follow an enchanting trail routed to include all the more interesting groups of formations. Many bear significant names. Situated in close proximity are the Pearly Gates and Angel Wings, while a stone Moses in robes of flowing white stands contemplatively at the threshold of the Promised Land. The leaning Tower of Pisa is represented, and the Tower of London. Several of the main rooms have been given expressive titles, such as the Grand Palace, Gothic Palace, the Queen's Room, the Lodge Room, and similar names.

By reason of their composition, all formations within the cave resound musically when tapped with a coin or other metal object. Tones produced in the Music Room, in particular, are as clear and resonant as those of a pipe organ. Additional beauty is given the cavern by numerous pools of crystal clear water in which overhanging stalactites are mirrored in glistening white, their surfaces seemingly frosted.

That Lehman cave is still largely unexplored is evidenced by many intriguing but forbidden passages that lead away from the main trail, and it is believed that full exploration may disclose here a series of caverns exceeding in size even those of world-famed Carlsbad.



While smaller in extent and stature, formations in Nevada's Lehman cave rival in beauty those of famed Carlsbad Caverns. Maintained by the National Park Service, the cave is open to the public.

Lincoln, 1923, p. 255

SNAKE (Bonita)
Tungsten, Silver

(339 Item 3)

Location. The Snake District is situated on Snake Creek on the E. flank of the Snake Range in S.E. White Pine Co., on the Utah border. It is S. of Baker postoffice at Camp Bonita. The Shoshone District adjoins the Snake District on the W.

History. The district was organized in 1869, but while some rich silver ore was found, no mines of importance were developed. In 1913, J. D. Tilford & Co. began work on tungsten-bearing veins and erected a 2-ton experimental mill from which some concentrates were shipped. The property was operated by Atkins, Kroll & Co. under lease and bond in 1915, and made some production in 1916.

Geology. The silver veins are in granite and contain silver chloride. The tungsten ore mineral is scheelite.

Bibliography. R1869 180; SMN1869-70 84; SMN1871-2 145; SMN1873-4 89; SMN1875-6 171; MR1913 I 356 Tungsten; MR1915 I 825 "; MR1916 I 793 "; Spurr208 25-36 Snake Range. Thompson & West 657.

STEPTOE see GRANITE

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o. It adjoins the
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nd others in 1869,
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during the World
oll & Co., erected

s in veins in lime-
e.

MR1915 I 825
MR1916 I 793

f/l: Snake dist.

(339) Item 3

Doctor White then surrendered the chair to Prof. James F. Kemp, who served as toastmaster for the remainder of the evening. The following men responded to his genial demand for remarks: Prof. T. C. Chamberlin, Dr. R. A. F. Penrose, Jr., Dr. Philip S. Smith, Prof. F. B. Loomis, Dr. George H. Ashley, Prof. F. R. Van Horn, Prof. H. L. Fairchild, and Prof. A. C. Lawson.

Session of Thursday Morning, December 30

The Society convened in the auditorium of Rosenwald Hall at 9.55 o'clock Thursday morning, President I. C. White in the chair. There being no business to transact, the presentation of the papers on the program was taken up at once.

Titles and Abstracts of Papers Presented at the Morning Session and Discussions Thereon

Mount Wheeler and Lehman Cave, White Pine County, Nevada

by John B. Hastings, 1921

(*Abstract*)

The trip from Ely, Nevada, up Steptoe Valley, across Shell Creek Range, Spring Valley, and Snake Range, to the cave in Snake Valley at foot of east flank of Mount Wheeler, describing the bird's-eye view en route of Mount Wheeler uplift, with photos.

Ascent of Mount Wheeler, glimpsing the stratigraphy on the east and north slopes, as spirally exposed from base to summit. An inclusion of schist in the older granite, with photos.

Map and photos of the cave interior. Description of its structure and analysis of the white and blue lime walls and aragonite deposit.

	Blue lime.	White lime.	Blue lime.	Stalagmite.
SiO_2	0.24	0.19	0.57	0.10
Al_2O_3	0.16	0.19	0.13	0.04
Fe_2O_3	0.24	0.24	0.63	0.01
CaO	53.74	55.28	53.96	55.00
MgO	1.54	0.26	0.91	0.18
SO_3	0.03	0.09	0.05	0.14
Water, 100° C.	0.06	0.02	0.26	0.36
CO_2	43.86	43.67	43.35	43.37
Ignition loss	0.22	0.03	0.13	0.89
Total	100.10	99.97	100.01	100.10

Presented by title in the absence of the author.

Geol. Soc. Am. Bull., v. 32, no. 1, p. 69

4480 0003

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SNAKE (BONITA)

Lincoln, F. C. Mining Districts and Mineral Resources of Nevada
Reno, 1923, p. 255.

"The Snake district is situated on Snake Creek on the east flank of the Snake Range in southeast White Pine County, on the Utah border. It is south of Baker post office at Camp Bonita. The Shoshone district adjoins the Snake district on the west

"The district was organized in 1869, but while some rich silver ore was found, no mines of importance were developed--. In 1913, J. D. Tilford and Co. began work on tungsten-bearing veins and erected a 2-ton experimental mill from which some concentrates were shipped. The property was operated by Atkens, Vroll and Co. under lease and bond in 1915, and made some production in 1916.

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