

Mining District: WHEELER RANCH PROSPECT
(Mercury)

T. 18-19 N., R. 19 E.
Washoe County, Nevada
USGS Reno 15-min. quadrangle (1950)

GENERAL BACKGROUND

The Wheeler Ranch Mercury Prospect is located in sections 33 and 34, T. 19 N., R. 19 E. and in section 3 and 4, T. 18 N., R. 19 E. on Evans Creek in the Carson Range, approximately 4 miles southwest of Reno.

The prospect was first discovered in 1875. Since that time the property has been worked on several different occasions by small-scale operators. The property was the site of exploration for commercial ore bodies again in 1966 (2). An unknown amount of mercury has been produced from the prospect since its discovery. The prospect was not examined by the writers.

GEOLOGICAL AND TECHNICAL DATA

The oldest rocks in the area are andesites of the Kate Peak Formation. The andesites have been extensively bleached and altered. The prospect area probably represents a northerly extension of the same thermal activity manifested at Steamboat Springs.

Mineralization reportedly occurs as encrustations and disseminations of cinnabar on fractures surfaces along north-trending faults in the area (2).

POTENTIAL FOR DEVELOPMENT

At the time of this report, no information was found delineating the grade or extent of mercury mineralization at the Wheeler Ranch Prospect. Since no production occurred as a result of the exploration in 1966--when the price of mercury was approaching its peak--it is reasonable to assume that the deposit is relatively low-grade. It is probable that no production will occur from this prospect unless additional exploration indicates high grade ore zones or a national emergency necessitates the use of low grade deposits. If so, future production, if any, would come from open pits.

COMPANIES AND CLAIMANTS ACTIVE IN AREA

Unknown.

Bennett, Dec. 1972

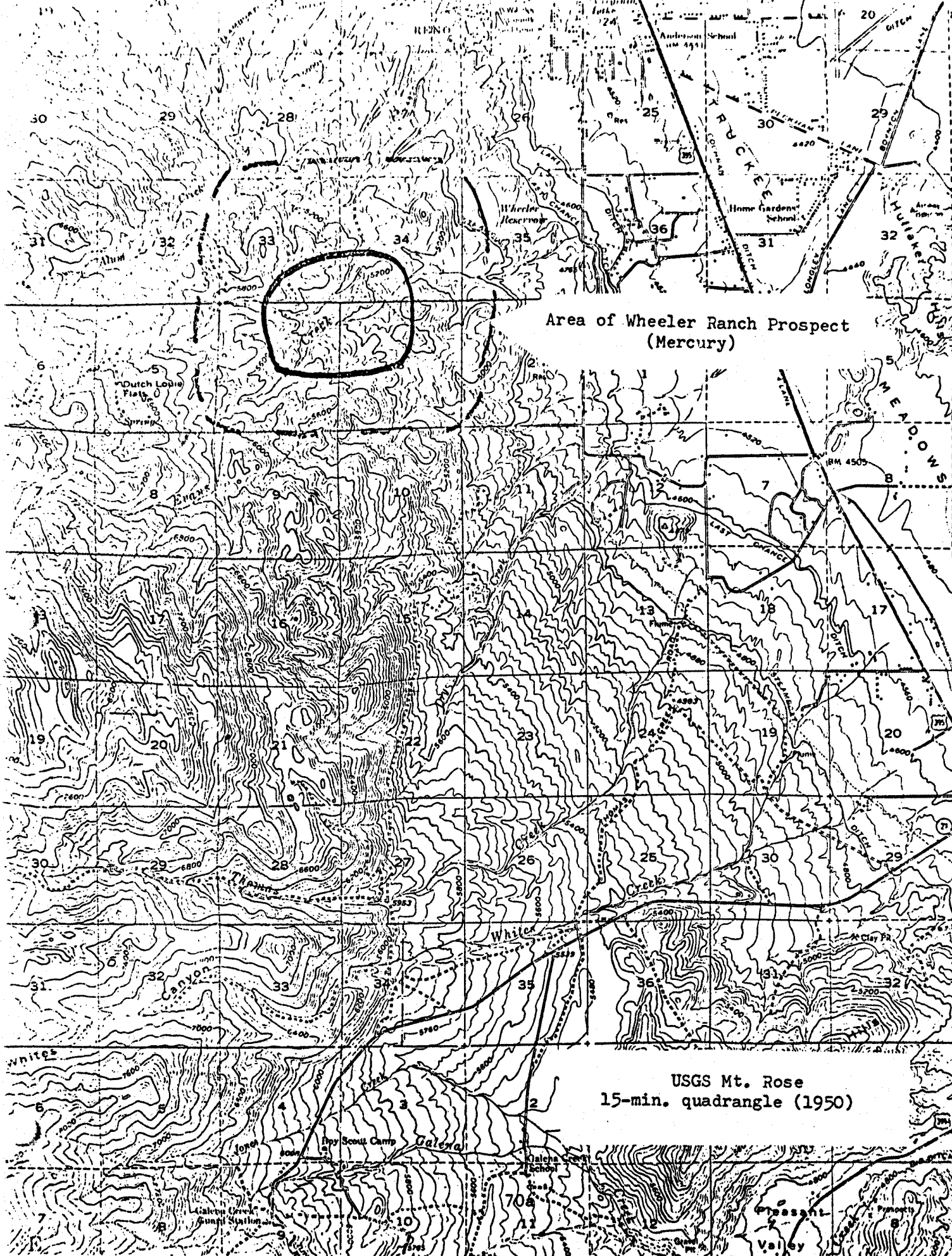
SELECTED REFERENCES

1. Bailey and Phoenix: Quicksilver Deposits in Nevada; Univ. Nev. Bull. 5, 1944.
2. 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)

FIELD EXAMINATION

Not examined.

Bennett, Dec. 1972



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*