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(October 1950)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

(Field number) Area 2 (Region) April 3, 1958 (Date)

REPORT

Land district and serial No. Nev. Misc. 265

Date of examination Aug. 1, 2, & 29, 1957

Name Small Tract Program

Field examiner Earl M. P. Lovejoy

Subject Validity of Mining Claims

Approved: Charles E. Hancock
Lands and Minerals Officer

Date February 26, 1957 (Application or proof)

Lands involved:

Mount Diablo Meridian

T. 18 N., R. 20 E.

Sec. 34, SW¼NW¼, W½SW¼

SW¼NW¼ classified for small tract, Order No. 128, 5-22-57.

Location

The subject lands are 10 miles south-southeast of the center of Reno, east of Steamboat Springs, one-half mile east of U. S. Highway 395 and one-half mile southwest of Nevada State Highway 17. Most of the land is easily accessible by means of dirt roads leading from the two main highways.

Topography

The W½SW¼ is a fairly symmetrical, round hill about 300 feet high above the surrounding plain (Figs. 1 & 2). The SW¼NW¼ consists of a much smaller hill, surmounting a fairly flat gravel plain which is incised by a drainage, near the W¼ corner, that extends generally along the east-west center line.

Geology

(See Plate I) The dominant topographic feature, the large hill in the W½SW¼, is composed of volcanic rocks of principally trachytic composition, intruded by stocks and dikes of basalt, surmounting granodiorite of the Sierra Nevadan batholith. The smaller hill, in the SW¼NW¼, consists of fluvial gravels on the north and altered and faulted trachyte on the south. West of these small hills, along the west section line in the SW¼NW¼, is a small outcrop of siliceous sinter deposited from hot springs similar to Steamboat Hot Springs. The sinter overlies lacustrine sands deposited during one of the latest periods of inundation of the valley.

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Mineral Character of the Lands

Only insignificant occurrences of mineral are known in the Sierra Nevadan granodiorite in this region. No mineral of economic value was found in this rock type on the subject lands.

The trachyte and basalt forming the hill in the W½SW¼ show no indication of containing mineral of economic value.

The altered and faulted trachyte in the SE¼SW¼NW¼ has been extensively prospected. About a dozen pits have been dug on north-trending fault and shear zones. Nowhere is there any evidence of a discovery of valuable mineral. Alteration and favorable structures, two excellent guides to ore, indicate that this land could be considered mineral in character.

The siliceous sinter exposed near the southwest corner of the NW¼ of the section does not contain any minerals of obvious economic value.

The two remaining rock types, lacustrine sands and fluvial sand and gravel, cover much of the SW¼NW¼. In the lands examined, these two rock types are of possible economic importance in the SW¼NW¼ and in the SE¼SW¼SW¼.

The lacustrine sands consist of arkosic material derived from the widespread granodiorite in the region. Since it contains materials similar to those which comprise decomposed granite, it is commonly so called. However, the material in the lucustrine sands differs from that material in that it has been transported by running water and deposited in a lake. It is much better sorted and sized than normal alluvial decomposed granite, and might very easily be considered a deposit of good grade sand.

The fluvial sand and gravel contains sand, pebbles, cobbles and boulders of predominantly volcanic rock. No fragments of granitoidal rock were found in it. Badly weathered granitoidal rock constitutes a deleterious substance in gravel, hence its absence makes of this material, otherwise good, an unusual deposit in the southern Truckee Meadows. The Isbell Construction Company owns a deposit of this material covering approximately 11¼ acres in the southern half of section 27, just north of the subject lands. Material for the Geiger Grade highway was obtained from that deposit. The Isbell Company intends to move its sand and gravel operation to this deposit when its reserves in Reno are depleted. The quantity, quality, accessibility, and mode of occurrence of this sand and gravel deposit make of it an extremely attractive source of this material. Within a few years, doubtlessly, the deposit will constitute one of the principal sources of supply.

Mining Claims

The only mining claims found on these lands are: (1) Lucky Seven Number 1; (2) Steamboat Placer Claim Number 1; (3) Steamboat Placer Claim Number 2.

Evidence of intensive prospecting of much earlier date exists throughout the area. No information about the claims associated with this earlier prospecting was found in the field.

Field and record search disclosed the following data pertinent to the enumerated claims:

1. Land: $S\frac{1}{2}SW\frac{1}{4}SW\frac{1}{4}$
   Claim: Lucky Seven Number 1
   Locators: Fred W. Schopper, Charles W. Schopper, Joe J. Schopper
   Address: Reno, Nevada

Notice of Location	Feb. 19, 1952	Book X, Page 417
Proof of Labor	Aug. 29, 1952	Book X, Page 563
Proof of Labor	July 15, 1953	Book Y, Page 479
Proof of Labor	July 9, 1954	Book Z, Page 495
Certificate of Location	Sept. 29, 1954	Book 1, Page 115
Proof of Labor	June 30, 1955	Book 10, Page 247
Proof of Labor	June 29, 1956	Book 17, Page 383-384
Proof of Labor	June 28, 1957	Book 20, Page 10

No other recordations

2. Land: $W\frac{1}{2}SW\frac{1}{4}NW\frac{1}{4}$
   Claim: Steamboat Placer Claim Number 1
   Locator: Richard E. Davis *
   Address: 401 Gould
   Reno, Nevada

Notice of Location	Nov. 26, 1956	Book 19, Page 25

No other recordations

3. Land: $E\frac{1}{2}SW\frac{1}{4}NW\frac{1}{4}$
   Claim: Steamboat Placer Claim Number 2
   Locator: Richard E. Davis *
   Address: 401 Gould
   Reno, Nevada

Notice of Location	Nov. 26, 1956	Book 19, Page 26

No other recordations

The Steamboat Placer Claims are located on land which contains sand and gravel deposits of commercial grade in commercial quantities. There appears to be no other type of commercial mineral material on the lands embraced by these claims.

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* R. E. Davis, also, has a Homestead Application, Nevada 044753, dated 12-12-56 on the $SW\frac{1}{4}NW\frac{1}{4}$.

Inasmuch as the claims were located subsequent to passage of P. L. 167 there is no valid discovery of valuable, locatable minerals on the lands embraced by the Steamboat Placer Claim Numbers 1 and 2.

Lucky Seven Number 1 placer claim has been located on lacustrine sand. Because the date of original location and the date of relocation are both earlier than passage of P. L. 167, the claim is based upon a discovery that is not administratively invalid.

Lucky Seven Number 1 placer claim adjoins Lucky Seven Number 2 placer claim in the S½SE¼SW¼. Both claims were based upon discoveries of mineral in the Quaternary lacustrine sands which occur along the west sixteenth line, just north of the south section line. The sands are the same in both claims, form a continuous deposit across the claim boundaries, and may be considered, for the purposes of this report, to exist under identical conditions.

Lucky Seven Number 2 was contested by this office on August 9, 1956, (Mineral Contest Number 2692) and was found to be invalid by Hearing Examiner Paul J. Dumm, who stated in his decision (dated Nov. 9, 1956; U. S. v Charles W. Schopper and Fred W. Schopper):

> "In view of the opinion of the Solicitor cited above, it does not appear that decomposed granite is subject to location so as to acquire title thereto under the mining laws. Since this material is not locatable under the mining laws it is not believed necessary to discuss the other issues involved in this case because any favorable consideration given to them would not validate an otherwise invalid claim."

The Solicitor's opinion (M-36295) cited above states in part:

> "In effect, the decision holds that the mere existence of such low-grade deposits on public lands, even though some limited economical use thereof might be made for filling or some other similar purposes, is alone insufficient to justify the acquisition of title thereto under the mining laws."

However, I believe that the lacustrine sand forming the discovery of the Lucky Seven Number 1 placer mining claim is not a deposit of "low-grade" material of widespread occurrence, but a deposit of valuable mineral, the quality and quantity of which are such as to warrant a prudent man in the expenditure of his time and money for its development.

Conclusions:

1. The Steamboat Placer Claim Numbers 1 and 2 do not contain discoveries of valuable, locatable mineral.

2. Although Lucky Seven Number 1 placer mining claim is based upon a discovery which is almost exactly the same as that of the Lucky Seven Number 2, and Lucky Seven Number 2 was declared invalid because it did not contain a valid discovery of locatable mineral, I believe that the Lucky Seven Number 1 placer mining claim is based on a discovery of valuable, locatable mineral.

Recommendations

The Steamboat Placer Claim Number 1 and Steamboat Placer Claim Number 2 placer mining claims, should be contested on the grounds that locatable minerals have not been found within the limits of the claim in sufficient quantity and quality to constitute a valid discovery.

Respectfully submitted,

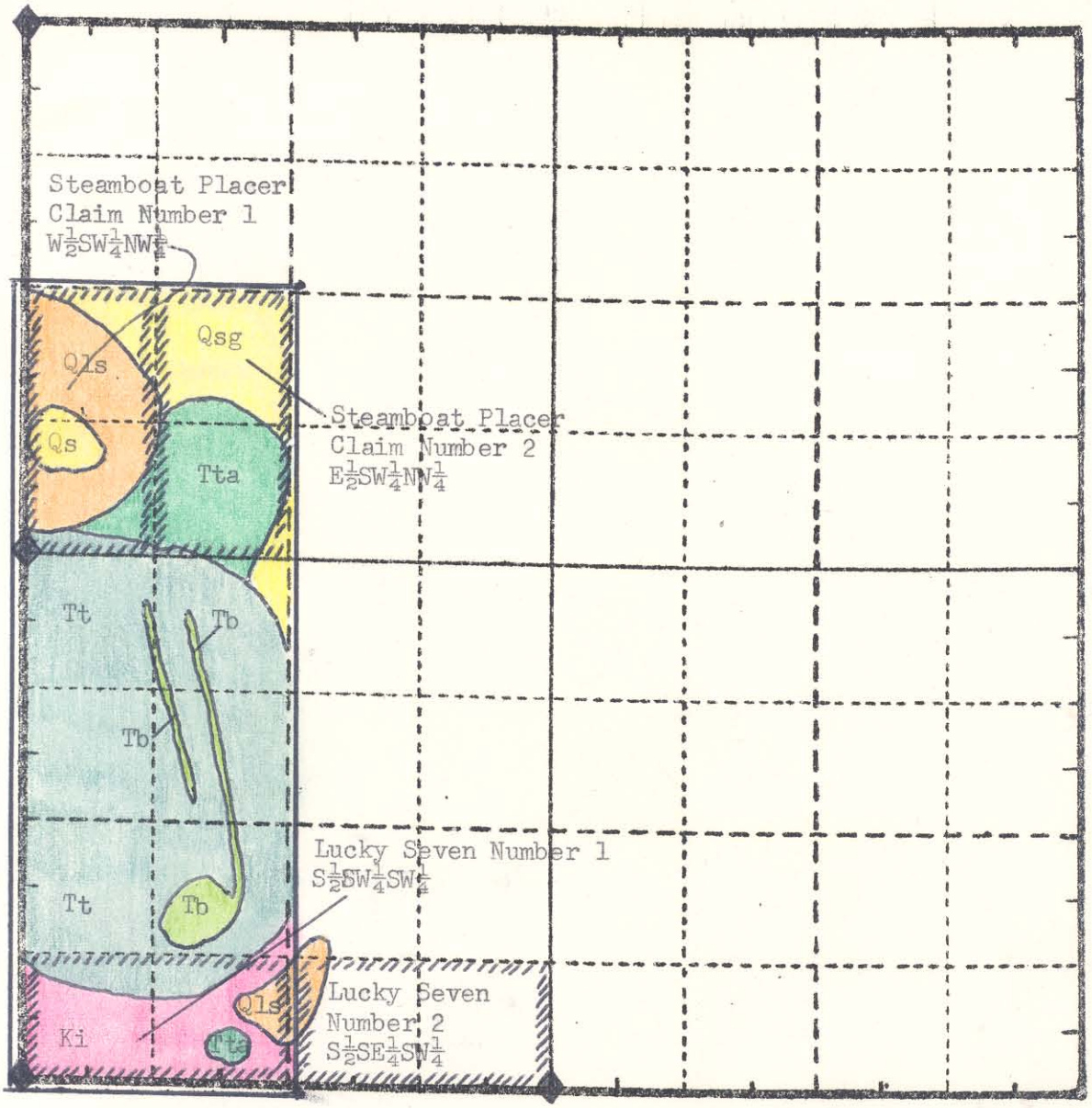
Earl M. P. Lovejoy

Earl M. P. Lovejoy
Valuation Engineer (Mining)

Contact Exh. 5

Figure 2 - View toward west from S¼ corner on south line, section 34, [illegible] sed of trachyte and basalt in W½SW¼, A - discovery pit for Lucky Seven Nos. 1 and 2 placer claims; B - west sixteenth corner on south section line of section 34; C - south quarter corner of section 34. Line B-C is the south line of section 34; line extending north (to right) from B is the west sixteenth line of section 34. Qls, lacustrine sand; Qsg, fluvial sand and gravels; Tb, basalt stock; Tta, altered trachyte; Tt, trachyte; Ki, Sierra Nevadan granodiorite.

SEC. 34 TWP. 18 N. RN. 20 E. MDM MER.



SCALE ~ 6 INCHES = 1 MILE

Qls	Quaternary lake bed deposits - lacustrine sands
Qs	Quaternary hotsprings deposits - siliceous sinter
Qsg	Quaternary fluvial sand and gravel
Tb	Tertiary basalt dikes and stock
Tta	Tertiary trachyte, altered along fault zones
Tt	Tertiary trachyte
Ki	Cretaceous granodiorite intrusive
◆	Corner found
	Claim boundary

PLATE I
SKETCH GEOLOGIC MAP