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EDSON COPPER GROUP

Table Mountain Mining District

Churchill County, Nevada

J.McLaren Forbes
December 2, 1975

On November 4, 1975 I visited the Edson Copper Group of claims, owned by Mrs. Wayne Wightman of Fallon, Nevada. At Mrs. Wightman's request I was guided on this examination trip by Mr. Robert Rysh.

The Edson Copper Group was familiar to me as, in 1953 when I was Chief Geologist for Coppermines, Coppermines had had a exploration project which included this property. At that t time two short holes were drilled on the Edson Group. The overall results were disappointing. Portions from the summary of Coppermines final report are as follows:

"Hole ER-2 drilled on the Edson No. 4 claim in an area of good surface mineralization exhibited very weak mineralization below fifteen feet. Hole ER-2 drilled 75 feet east of ER-1 on the Edson No.3 claim and near an andestie-micro-diorite contact has weak mineralization except in one narrow 15-foot zone at 65 feet. The better zones of copper mineralization on the surface were confined to the areas exhibiting strong alteration and brecciation of the andesite. These areas are realted to the micro-diorite. With sparse surface copper mineralization, and the copper mineralization being superficial in the better zones, it was evident that a large tonnage of mineable ore would not be developed in this area, and the project was abandoned."

My two main objectives on this one day visit were to see any new exploration work that had been done since 1953, and to have another look at the exposures of the diorite and micro-diorite, away from the drill holes ER-1 and ER-2 on Red Hill.

No new exploration work was to be seen.

The traverse across the diorite showed that the main body of the intrusive was relatively fresh and that the mineralization appeared to be limited to occasional occurances in the contact zone micro-diorite and in the adjacent sheared, and jointed or faulted andesite.

Nothing was seen to indicate that the Edson Group, by itself, warrented further work, nor to change the conclusion reached by Coppermines in 1953.

The Copper mineralization at the Edson Group may well be related to other mineralized areas in the northern part of the Stillwater Range. These include, on the east side of the range, The Dixie Comstock (gold and silver), prospects near the Edson Group in Azurite and Corral Canyous (mainly copper), Cottonwood Canyon (nickel, cobalt, copper), and the Bradshaw prospect about 3 miles mortheast of the Edson Group (copper).

On the east side of the Stillwater Range tungsten and mercury has been mined in Fondaway Canyon, and copper at Copperoid in White Cloud Canyon (where there was a small smelter in 1893). Copper Kettle Canyon has produced a few car loads of copper ore from deposits in diorite. Reportedly copper mineralization is to be found adjacent to the Buena Vista Hills iron deposits.

At the time of Coppermines work on the Edson Group they also held the Bradshaw Group, where the U.S. Bureau of Mines had drilled in 1949 (Report of Investigations 4617, Investigation of the Table Mountain Copper Deposit, Churchill County, Nevada). Due to various reasons Coppermines work at the Bradshaw prospect consisted of only superficial geological mapping; although I felt that it should have received as much or more attention than the Edson Gropp. Coppermines report did say, concerning the Bradshaw kprospect:

" In the andesite along the Big Fault near Bradshaw's adit and where the U.S.B.M. did its diamond drilling the mineralization is somewhat different." (from that on the Edson Group) " Although, in some spots, there is prominent copper staining, there is less secondary ensichment and the drilling by the U.S.B.M. shows that primary sulfides continue to some depth. This stronger zone of primary mineralization was not found on the Edson of Four Aces Groups and it is probably realted to the Big Fault and reated zones of weakness along which mineralizing solutions could ascend. The mineralization is possibly related to the diorite at the north end of this zone".

There is sufficient mineralization outcropping in the northern portion of the Stillwater Renge, all of which may be related to the same sequence of dioritic intrusives, so that a reconnaissance survey would be in order, to search for an economically mineable mineral deposit.

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