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Item 2 (178)

Lincoln County
Viola District

VIOLA DISTRICT

The Viola district is 10-13 miles northwest of Carp, a siding on the Union Pacific Railroad in Meadow Valley Wash in the southern area of the Clover Mountains. The district has been the source of fluorspar and small quantities of silver, gold, copper, lead, and zinc ore. Cinnabar has been found in minor amounts in several places, and a little has been recovered by retorting. A discussion of the geology and a geologic map is presented by Tschanz and Pampeyan (1970, p. 160-165).

BLUE NOSE GROUP

Other names ------ May include Indian Lode 1-3 claims
Location --------- Mostly in SW/4S19 and NW/4S30,T8S,R69E
Map -------------- Blue Nose Peak, 1:24,000
Ownership -------- J. L., V. G., and M. F. Holt (1978)
Discovery -------- 1944 by Charles Larson
Production ------- None(?)
Geologic type ---- Interbedded sediments-limestone

The Blue Nose property consists of a group of 20 or more claims extending south-southwest from a point 1/2 miles southwest of Blue Nose Peak. The first five Blue Nose claims were located in 1944 by Charles Larson who reported annual exploration until 1957. Development consists of an adit driven at an altitude of 4,759 feet northeasterly into a limestone hill for a distance estimated to be about 200 feet, a second adit 1/2 miles to the northeast, and several prospect pits, bulldozer cuts, and shallow shafts. Mineralized and silicified limestone exposed at the surface and in dumps showed copper and lead minerals as well as iron staining, but panning of a few dump samples did not reveal any cinnabar. Probably the small mercury production credited to the Blue Nose group came from the adjacent Crystal claims also once held by Larson.

CRYSTAL PROSPECT

Other names ------ Part of the Clover group (1978)
Location --------- S19 and 30,T8S,R69E
Map -------------- Blue Nose Peak, 1:24,000
Ownership --------
Discovery -------- 1939(?)
Production ------- Very small
Geologic type ---- Interbedded sediments-limestone

The Crystal Prospect is on a group of at least 18 claims probably first located in 1939 and relocated in 1954 and 1955 by G. F. Totter, and Howard Kehrl. The original claims were in an area north and west of Blue Nose Peak, and in 1980 the ground apparently had been included in the Clover group of more than 60 claims extending from 1 mile northwest of the Peak to 1 1/2 miles south of it. The original locators, later joined by O. C. Mudd and D. E. Cotner, developed the property between 1955 and 1962 by means of scattered cuts and a shallow shaft with conected short adit about 1/4 mile north of Blue Nose Peak. A small retort was erected near the shaft, and in 1955 at least one flask of mercury was produced. In 1957 the Crystal Mining Corporation reported they were retorting ore but recorded no production

The rocks of the area are limestone with local thin beds of quartzite of late Paleozoic age overlain unconformably by late Cretaceous or early Tertiary volcanic flows and breccia (Tschanz and Pampeyan, 1970, p. 160-162). Cinnabar occurs in the shaft area in a foot-wide broken, locally sanded, zone formed along a N5E vertical fault cutting the limestone. Fragments on the dump contained crusts of cinnabar as much as 1/8 in in thickness, and selected pieces would provide good retort grade ore. Other workings 1,000 feet to the east of the shaft were dug in silicified, iron-stained limestone. Here azurite and malachite occurred with barite veins, and a small amount of cinnabar was found by panning the dump material.

FLUORITE BASIN ~~PROSPECT~~ GROUP

Other name ------- Mercury, Little Red Mt., Indian, and Fluorite Basin claims
Location --------- S25,26,35,36,T8S,R68E
Map -------------- Blue Nose Peak, 1:24,000
Discovery -------- James Bradshaw
Production ------- None
Geologic type ---- Volcanic

The Fluorite Basin group is in the southwestern part of the Viola district extending eastward for 2 miles from the area indicated as Dodge Pockets on the quadrangle map. Sixteen claims, staked chiefly for fluorite, encompass an easterly trending ridge of rhyolite and rhyolite tuff that overlies limestones exposed on the north side of an intervening valley. Exploration appears to consist of scattered shallow cuts, trenches, and short shafts and adits dug in areas where these volcanic rocks are silicified, cut by quartz veins, and intensely colored by red iron oxides. Mr. Bradshaw reports (oral commun., 1980) that cinnabar occurs chiefly with fluorite, but limited exploration has not found an area where it is widespread in enough quantity to mine.