

NW-30-11  
Au, Cu, Pb,  
Zn, Ag, Clay?

Mining District: PEAVINE DISTRICT (RENO, GRANITE MOUNTAIN)  
WEDEKIND DISTRICT (GLENDALE DISTRICT)  
(Gold, Copper, Lead, Zinc, Silver, Clay?)

T. 19-20-21 N., R. 18-19-20 E.  
Washoe County, Nevada  
USGS Spanish Springs Valley 15-min. quadrangle (1957)  
and Reno 15-min. quadrangle (1950)

#### GENERAL BACKGROUND

The Peavine and Wedekind Districts are located in a conspicuous east-west bleached zone immediately north of Reno and Sparks. Each district will be discussed separately.

#### I. Peavine District

The Peavine District encompasses the area around Peavine Mountain and is bordered by the California boundary on the west and the Wedekind District on the east. The area parallels the Truckee River on the south and includes the Granite Peak area on the north. Mining activity began in the area as early as 1867. Production from the district was first recorded in 1872 when over \$53,000 of gold, silver, copper, and lead ore was extracted. Some placer gold was produced before the turn of the century from alluvial gravels in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 16, T. 20 N., R. 19 E., south of Black Springs. Incomplete records indicate the extraction of over 36,000 tons of gold, silver, lead, and copper ore from the area, grossing approximately \$242,000 (1).

#### GEOLOGICAL AND TECHNICAL DATA

The oldest rocks exposed in the Peavine area are Mesozoic metavolcanic and metasedimentary rocks intruded by Cretaceous(?) granodiorite, and granodiorite and dacite porphyry of Tertiary age. Unconformably overlying these rocks are ash-flows of the Hartford Hills Rhyolite, andesite flows and breccias of the Alta Formation, and volcanic flows, breccias, and intrusives of the Kate Peak Formation. The Pliocene Coal Valley Formation unconformably overlies all of the older rocks.

Two periods of mineralization have apparently occurred in the Peavine area. The first period of mineralization, presumably Mesozoic in age, deposited gold, silver, and copper in the metamorphic and granitic rocks. The second period of mineralization, of late Miocene or Miopliocene in age, affected both pre-Tertiary and Tertiary rocks. The Tertiary period of mineralization has formed a conspicuous east-west zone of bleaching due to the oxidation of pyrite, approximately 13 miles long and 4 miles wide, in the Peavine and Wedekind areas.

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Economic mineralization generally occurs as poorly-defined lodes and veins in the metamorphic and volcanic rocks. Gold, silver, and secondary copper minerals are present in the oxidized zone. Primary sulfide ore includes pyrite, enargite, galena, sphalerite, and argentite. Quartz and calcite constitutes the major gangue minerals.

In the Granite Peak area several properties are located on quartz-tourmaline veins in granodiorite. Small amounts of secondary copper minerals and enargite are present in these veins.

#### POTENTIAL FOR DEVELOPMENT

The presence of extensively altered and bleached areas with widespread evidence of mineralization suggest that in the future, the Peavine area should receive increasing attention as a favorable site for mineral exploration. Favorable geology, manifested in the extensive occurrence of basement rocks at the surface and at shallow depths, and past production from properties scattered throughout the area indicate a favorable potential for significant mineralization. Additionally, Tertiary porphyry intrusive rock which spatially, if not genetically, may be related to ore deposits in other areas, underlies at least a portion of the area. Bonham (1) states that "the occurrences of the metallization in poorly defined lodes or stockworks, rather than in well-defined vein systems.... suggests that moderately extensive low-grade bodies of minable width and grade might be present."

Past mining operations consist of numerous prospect pits, shafts, and adits. If a disseminated-type ore deposit is discovered in the future, it will probably be worked by open-pit methods.

Old workings could receive exploration interest in hopes of discovering blind ore bodies should the price of precious metals rise appreciably. According to Bonham (op.cit.) most of the copper produced from the area came from the Red Metals Mine in sections 9 and 10, T. 20 N., R. 18 E. Although presently idle in terms of production this property could become active should adequate ore grade and extent be discovered below the oxidized zone.

Although some production has been recorded from the properties in the vicinity of Granite Peak, the copper content appears to be submarginal, and unless the gold and silver values increase markedly with depth they will probably not be further developed.

The placer area is 2 to 3 feet wide and about 1,500 feet long (1). The gravels have been worked twice and future production from the deposit is doubtful.

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The more strongly bleached and argillized rock in the Peavine area could possibly be a source of common clay in the future.

#### COMPANIES AND CLAIMANTS ACTIVE IN AREA

The following list identifies some of the claimants in the Peavine area:

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|--|---|---|
| 1. GLIDER Group<br>D. Smith et.al.<br>Sun Valley<br>Mar. 1972<br>(15 lode claims)                                      | 2. BIG LEDGE Group<br>J. Redelius<br>1650 E. 4th, Reno<br>Jul. 1951<br>(4 lode claims)                | 3. RAINBOW Group<br>Ira Vandeniaker et.al.<br>Aug. 1967<br>(10 lode claims)                     |
| 4. GOLDEN CHANCE #1<br>R. Rossier et.al.<br>853 Haskell, Reno<br>Jul. 1963<br>(160 a. placer claim)                    | 5. NORTHVIEW Group<br>J. Redelius<br>1650 E. 4th, Reno<br>Jul. 1947<br>(3 lode claims)                | 6. IMPERIAL Group<br>J. Mortensen et.al.<br>1212 Patrick, Reno<br>1961, 1966<br>(2 lode claims) |
| 7. FREDRICK TOWN<br>GALEN'S TOWN<br>DAVES TOWN<br>J. Mortensen et.al.<br>1212 Patrick, Reno<br>1962<br>(3 lode claims) | 8. SILVER BAR<br>LUCKY STRIKE<br>W. W. Waters<br>315 Clay, Reno<br>Oct., Dec. 1959<br>(2 lode claims) | 9. SURPRISE PLACER<br>V. Borgna et.al.<br>May 1953<br>(40 a. placer)                            |
| 10. OLD BLARNEY Group<br>W. W. Waters<br>315 Clay, Reno<br>1955, 1957<br>(7 lode claims)                               |   |   |

#### II. Wedekind District

The Wedekind area is located in the hills just north of Sparks and is an eastward extension of the mineralization in the Peavine area. The Wedekind Mine was discovered in 1896, and soon thereafter a mill was erected to process the oxide ore. In 1903 hot acid water was encountered in the mine. This, coupled with the failure of the mill to effectively process newly discovered sulfide ore, resulted in the failure of the venture. Other unsuccessful attempts to mine ore from the area occurred in the 1920's and 1930's.

Peak production for the area occurred between 1901-1903. Incomplete records indicate that over 2,000 tons of ore was extracted, grossing approximately \$112,000, chiefly in silver. Bonham (1) states that these figures are probably too low, by a factor of two.

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Two copper prospects are located on the eastern slope of the ridge that bounds the western edge of Spanish Springs Valley. One prospect is in section 5, T. 20 N., R. 20 E. and the other prospect is in section 32, T. 21 N., R. 20 E. There has been no apparent production from these two properties.

#### GEOLOGICAL AND TECHNICAL DATA

The oldest rocks in the Wedekind area are granodiorites of Cretaceous(?) age. The granitic rocks are unconformably overlain by andesite flows and breccias of the Alta Formation. These flows and breccias have been intruded by granodiorite porphyry dikes. The volcanic rocks of the Alta Formation are highly propylitized and bleached. Mineralization is confined to the Alta Formation.

Known economic mineralization is present in northerly trending fracture zones, and the ore occurs in poorly-defined stockworks and in lenses and stringers along the fracture zones. Oxidized ore consists of free gold, cerussite, and anglesite, and silver haloids. Primary sulfides were encountered as shallow as 50 feet in depth. Primary sulfide minerals are galena, sphalerite, pyrite, and argenite.

Both copper prospects are located on fault zones in granodiorite. A minor amount of secondary copper minerals are present on the fracture surfaces.

#### POTENTIAL FOR DEVELOPMENT

The Wedekind area, like the Peavine, offers promise for the discovery of potentially significant mineral deposits. However, Bonham (1) states that "future mining development or exploration in the Wedekind District is highly improbable, because of the encroachment of residential housing into the district. Several houses have been built in the district and more will undoubtedly be constructed." The writers, in general, concur with Bonham's conclusions.

Mineralization at the two copper prospects appears to be uneconomical, both in grade and extent.

#### COMPANIES AND CLAIMANTS ACTIVE IN AREA

The following list identifies some of the claimants in the Wedekind area:

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|--|---|--|
| 1. LUCKY LADY Group<br>Mrs. L. Barlow<br>2546 D St., Sparks<br>1971<br>(5 lode claims)               | 2. TWIN METALS Group<br>C. E. Shelly et.al.<br>474 Smith Ridge, Reno<br>Nov. 1954<br>(2 lode claims)  | 3. DEE Group<br>F.Y. Jiminez<br>6000 Hwy 33, Sparks<br>Dec. 1947<br>(3 lode claims)                                  |
| 4. LUCKY STRIKE Group<br>A. C. Vaughn<br>1947, 1948<br>(6 lode claims)                               | 5. STAR MILLSITE<br>D. E. Masters<br>1307 12th, Sparks<br>Nov. 1970                                   | 6. PYRAMID No 2<br>Pete Capurro<br>2100 Schroeder, Sparks<br>(fractional claim)                                      |
| 7. SAND MTN MILLSITE<br>F. T. Lemmons<br>2930 Markridge, Reno<br>Nov. 1970                           | 8. LUCKY SHOT No 1<br>S. M. Soares<br>235 Bathhurst, Sparks<br>Apr. 1972<br>(placer claim)            | 9. MARX & MARY LAW Group<br>M. Law<br>2359 Flagg, Reno<br>1966, 1967<br>(12 lode claims, placer<br>claims, millsite) |
| 10. THOMAS CRAIG Group<br>(placer claims)  | 11. FAITH Group<br>Hugo Cavalli<br>PO Box 2085<br>White City, Oregon<br>1955-1969<br>(26 lode claims) | 12. RENO NORTH Group<br>D. L. Huntsman<br>Sp. 14, 2301 Oddie, Reno<br>(3 lode claims)                                |
| 13. COPPER QUEEN<br>Bill Squires et.al.<br>1046 Alabama, Vallejo, CA<br>Sept. 1952<br>(1 lode claim) |   |  |

SELECTED REFERENCES

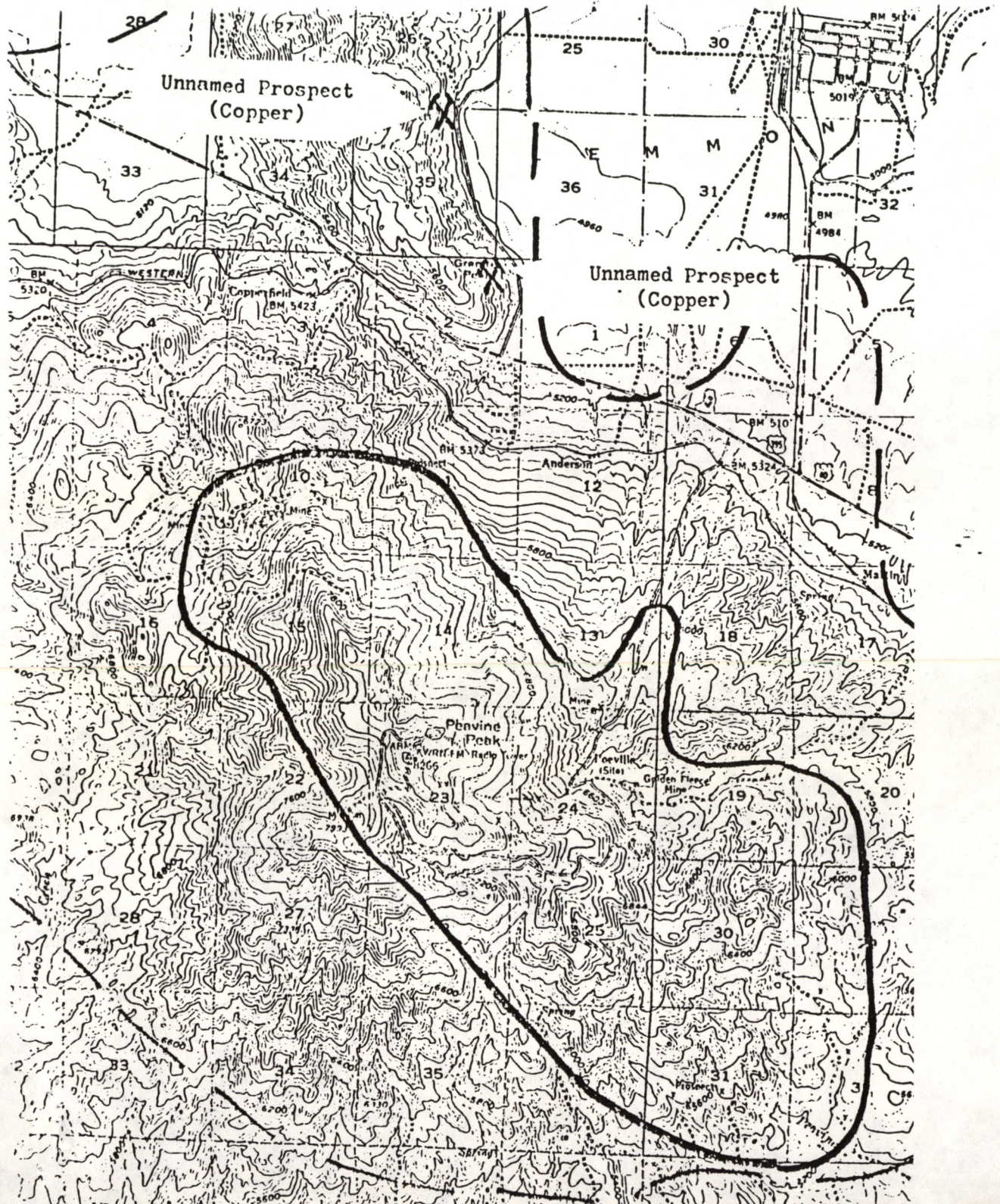
- Bonham and Papke: Geology and Mineral Resources of Washoe and Storey Counties, Nevada; Nev. Bur. Mines Bull. 70, 1969.  
(Includes Geologic Map of Resource Area)

FIELD EXAMINATION

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*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*