WINNEMUCCA DISTRICT

LOCATION

The Winnemucca mining district includes mines and prospects on Winnemucca Mountain located just north of the town of Winnemucca. The Harmony district is located to the south of the town, and the Ten Mile district lies to the west of the Winnemucca district, in the Krum and Ten Mile Hills.

HISTORY

The first discovery in the district was made in 1863 by an Indian named Winnemucca. In 1872 the Humboldt Reduction Works erected a 10-stamp mill and a roasting furnace at Winnemucca for the treatment of custom ores (Vanderburg, 1938, p. 51). The base character of the ores required high treatment charges. The Pride of the Mountain or Pride of the West Mine in the southern foothills of Winnemucca Mountain was worked between 1868 and 1877, and is credited with production of about $1 million (Ferguson and others, 1951). Willden (1964, table 9) reports this amount of production is not supported by other data. The Adamson Mine (A & T Mine, Golden West group, Wannamuck group-according to Willden, 1964) is located on the west slope of Winnemucca Mountain and was worked in 1911 (Lindgren, 1915, p. 15). The Golden West group was prospected in 1937, according to Vanderburg (1938, p. 53). Little information is available concerning later developments in the district, but there has been sporadic minor production from the Winnemucca and adjacent Ten Mile (and Barrett Springs) districts through the 1960's (Willden, 1964, table 8). Properties visited in 1984 were inactive, but some bulldozer roads (for rotary drilling) have been put in recently. Some exploration work was done at the Winnemucca Mountain Mine in 1981 (Humboldt Sun, 24 Feb 81).

GEOLOGIC SETTING

Winnemucca Mountain consists of Triassic Winnemucca and Raspberry Formations which are intruded by a small mass of Jurassic(?) diorite on the southeast flank of the mountain. The northern part of the mountain is overlian by Tertiary olivine basalt flows. A Tertiary dacite intrusive body is present between the Krum Hills and Winnemucca Mountain (Willden, 1964, plate 1 and p. 90). Mesozoic granodiorite also occurs in small masses intruding the Winnemucca Formation on the south flank of the mountain. The Winnemucca and Raspberry Formations are part of the Auld Lang Syne Group, which consists predominantly of shale, sandstone, and limestone.

ORE DEPOSITS

The mineralization in the district consists of limonite gossan and spotty quartz and calcite vein matter along faults which cut shales. Precious metals values are present, and some of the unoxidized ores

probably contain base-metal sulfide minerals. The workings on Winnemucca Mountain are relatively shallow.

At the Golden West group of claims on the south side of Winnemucca Mountain the Triassic shales are cut by seams of quartz and calcite. Shallow churn drilling in 1937 outlined a large tonnage of low-grade ore (Vanderburg, 1938, p. 53). The Gold Hill group, or Winnemucca Mountain Mine (S13,T36N,R37E - Willden, 1964, table 9), on the southeast flank of the mountain, contains free gold and a little silver in an irregular body of iron-stained material. The gangue is composed almost entirely of iron oxides with a small amount of quartz (Vanderburg, 1938, p. 54).

The Adamson Mine (A & T Mine) is located on the west side of Winnemucca Mountain. The production came from a vein which strikes northeast and dips 60° northeast. In the southwestern part the vein filling is calcite with local cinnabar; in the northeast part the filling is quartz, barite, and native gold. The gold was found in a small shoot with drusy quartz (Lindgren, 1915, p. 15-16; Ferguson and others, 1951).

The Pride of the Mountain Mine in the southern foothills of Winnemucca Mountain was worked for lead, silver, and gold in the late 1860's and the 1870's (Lindgren, 1915, p. 13). Mineralization is reportedly in quartz veins which cut hornfels or slate (Willden, 1964, table 9).

SELECTED REFERENCES

Ferguson, H. G., Muller, S. W., and Roberts, R. J. (1951) Geologic map of the Winnemucca quadrangle, Nevada: U.S. Geological Survey Map GQ-11.

Lindgren, Waldemar (1915) Geology and mineral deposits of the National mining district, Nevada: U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 601.

Vanderburg, W. O. (1938) Reconnaissance of mining districts in Humboldt County, Nevada: U.S. Bureau of Mines Information Circular 6995.

Willden, Ronald (1964) Geology and mineral deposits of Humboldt County, Nevada: Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology Bulletin 59.