Paper No. 28 - 11:20 a.m. "NICKEL PLATE GOLD MINE" R. Simpson, Mascot Gold Mines Ltd. and G.E. Ray, Province of B.C., Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources

The Nickel Plate gold mine is located in the southern interior of British Columbia near the town of Hedley. Initially discovered in 1898, it produced approximately 1.5 million ounces of gold between 1902 and 1955. Mascot Gold Mines Limited is re-opening the mine as an open pit operation with production scheduled to commence in mid-1987. Open pit reserves total 7.1 million tons grading .15 oz gold per ton.

The Hedley region lies within the Intermontane Belt of the Canadian Cordillera and is largely underlain by a sedimentary - volcanic sequence belonging to the Upper Triassic Nicola Group. Two major plutonic suites intrude the sequence. The Hedley intrusions form stocks, sills and dykes of diorite-gabbro and are believed to be of Middle Jurassic age. The younger Similkameen intrustions comprise larger plutons of granite-granodiorite composition of Middle to Late Jurassic age.

The Nickel Plate gold deposit lies near the top of Nickel Plate Mountain where thin-bedded, limy clastic sedimentary rocks of the Nicola Group, along with diorite porphyry sills of the Hedley intrusions, have been latered to pyroxene skarn. The gold-bearing zones lie near the outer margins of the skarn and are structurally controlled by small-scale folds, sills and dykes. Gold occurs in native form as minute grains associated with arsenopyrite and bismuth tellurides, and as electrum associated with late stage intergrowths of chalcopyrite, pyrrhotite, magnetite and sphalerite.

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