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DEPARTMENT OF MINES
TERRITORY OF ALASKA

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Report of Mining Investigations in the Nulato Precinct

By

J. C. Roehm

Associate Mining Engineer

August 29-30, 1946

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JUNEAU, ALASKA

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There were four mining operations in the Nulato precinct and one extensive drilling operation by the U. S. S. R. & M. Company in the Hogatza River area. Shortages of labor and excessively high costs have terminated drift mining altogether in the Ruby district, and greatly lessened the number of mechanical operations. Acquisitions of equipment by the army during the war years and the delayed freight on the Yukon River this last spring have contributed to the inactivity in the precinct. A total of 31 men are engaged in mining within the precinct. However, two new operations began this year; namely, the Camp Creek Mining Company on Camp Creek in the Kaiyuh Hills and Iver Johnson & Company on Trail Creek in the Ruby area. Reports were to the effect that the U. S. S. R. & M. Company has proven by drill a large area of low grade placer in the Hogatza River area.

The Sunshine Mining Company, under the direction of Asher Richardson, was reported to be mining with two D. T. 18 International caterpillars on Greenstone Creek south of Long in the Ruby District. The location of the operation was given as half way down Greenstone Creek on the old Guggenheim property. The ground was reported to be bench ground with a total depth of 20 feet, of which the greater portion was black muck. The method of mining was given as pushing gravels into boxes by caterpillar with the aid of hydraulic. A total of seven men are employed. IR 56-4

Iver Johnson & Company have leased the ground formerly held and operated by the Trail Creek Mining Company on Trail Creek and located east of Long. Iver Johnson is in charge of operations and reports that Eric Hard of Ophir is his partner in the company. The method of mining consists of pushing with bulldozer the gravels up a low incline in front of the boxes and washing them through with hydraulic. Another bulldozer is used to stack tailings. This method eliminates setting the boxes in bedrock and the expense of digging a bedrock drain. The disadvantage of this method is that considerable gold is lost in front of the boxes unless considerable time is used to clean under the gravel ramp. This could be corrected by using a funnel-shaped steel ramp which would keep the gold from working downward into bedrock. The digging of bedrock drains is one of the major expenses in this type of mining due to the expense of digging the bedrock and the loss of mining time while digging. This operation is handicapped by the presence of from 30 to 35 feet of frozen muck covering 4 to 5 feet of pay gravels. The frozen muck contains an abundance of roots, stumps and brush. The bedrock is rough and IR 56-4

very uneven with a low general grade. Thawing of the muck is done with hydraulic giants, and this season there has been a shortage of water.

The Long Creek Mining Company is operating with three men on Bear Pup located north of the town of Long. This company's dragline was acquired by the army during the war. A new D-8 caterpillar was purchased this spring and mining was resumed this season by the use of hydraulic and bulldozer. This is the first season the company has operated since 1942. A total of three men are employed and only a small production is expected this season. XX-56-19

The Camp Creek Mining Company, a co-partnership consisting of Don Hammond, A. C. Gustafson, T. Anderson, and Glenn Carrington, is operating on Camp Creek in the Kaiyuh Hills at the old site and workings of Kaiyuh Mining Company. They were reported using hydraulic-bulldozer and operating a pumping plant with a total of five men. The operation is under the direction of A. C. Gustafson, and poor results were reported for this season.

Active Mining Operations in the Nulato Precinct, 1946

Hydraulic-Bulldozer:

Sunshine Mining Co.	Greenstone Cr.	7 men
Iver Johnson & Co.	Trail Creek	6
Long Creek Mining Co.	Bear Pup	3
Camp Creek Mining Co.	Camp Cr.	5

Drilling:

U. S. S. R. & M. Co.	Hogatza R.	$\frac{10}{31}$
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Costs in the Nulato Precinct, 1946

Koyukuk - diesel oil at Nulato - \$15 per bbl. + 120 miles via caterpillar to Koyukuk area.

Ruby-Long Section - diesel oil at Ruby - \$14 per bbl. + 2 cents per lb. delivered at Long. Approximately \$20 - \$22 per bbl. at Long.

Freight, Ruby to Long - 2 cents per lb.

Wages - \$1.40 - \$1.50 per hr. - 10-hr. shift.