

TERRITORY OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF MINES
COLLEGE, ALASKA

November 1, 1951

ITINERARY REPORT

TO: Leo H. Saarela, Commissioner of Mines, Juneau, Alaska
FROM: Robert H. Saunders, Associate Mining Engineer, College, Alaska
SUBJECT: Itinerary Report of Robert H. Saunders, Associate Mining Engineer, for the period August 28, 1951, to September 2, 1951.

This trip was made to obtain information regarding mining operations in the Cache Creek District and to make an examination of the lode property of the Dutch Hills Exploration and Development Co.

August 28: Fairbanks to Talkeetna via the Alaska Railroad.

August 29: By truck from Talkeetna to Cache Creek; on foot to C. W. Bradley's camp on upper Cache Creek.

August 30: On foot to the property of the Dutch Hills Exploration and Development Co. on upper Bird Creek.

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Thinking
The Dutch Hills Exploration and Development Co. has staked twelve contiguous lode claims extending from the head of Mugget Creek over a ridge to Bird Creek, across Bird Creek, and to the top of a ridge on the north side of Bird Creek. The claims are staked along the apexes of a group of parallel igneous dikes. There are pockets rich in gold in the gouge along the dike walls, and there is also gold in the slate wallrock between the dikes. The best exposures are on the Golden Anchor claim on the left limit of Bird Creek at approximately 62 degrees 35 minutes north latitude and 151 degrees 00 minutes west longitude. The property will be described in more detail in a separate report.

Litigation is pending over ownership of land included in two of the claims of the Dutch Hills Exploration and Development Co. A separate report will be written explaining the dispute.

In the evening I visited Mike Trepte, who is leasing claims owned by the Alaska Exploration Co. at the mouth of Bird Creek. Trepte is hydraulicking in ground 125 ft deep. He employs one man. The operation differs from others in the vicinity in the method of handling boulders; the boulders are blasted and washed through the boxes.

August 31: I visited C. W. Bradley's workings on upper Cache Creek. He is hydraulicking in ground 140 ft. deep. The present operations are on the Discovery Claim, which is one of a group of twenty-four placer claims owned by Mr. and Mrs. Bradley. The Black King lode claim has been staked

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LEO H. SAARELA
Commissioner of Mines

by B. W. Lyons and C. W. Bradley over the Discovery Claim to cover an auriferous igneous dike exposed by the placer mining. Subsequent mining has again covered the dike.

I traveled on horseback with C. W. Bradley to Helvor Erickson's workings in Cache Creek, to Robert Dahl's workings on Nugget Creek, and to A. J. Taraski's workings on Cache Creek.

Helvor Erickson mines on ground owned by Nagley of Anchorage. He works alone using two giants; one for mining and one for stacking tailings. The ground is six to nine feet deep. This is the only operation in the district that has a reservoir for storing water so that mining can proceed with "splashes" during dry weather. KX-75-28

Robert Dahl works alone, sniping on ground owned by the Nugget Creek Mining Co. He uses one giant with a two and one-half inch nozzle. The ground is about eight feet deep. KX-75-29

A. J. Taraski mines alone on ground owned by the Nugget Creek Mining Co. He uses two giants. The ground is about eight feet deep.

I spent the night in a camp on lower Cache Creek owned by the Nugget Creek Mining Co.

September 1: From Cache Creek to Talkeetna by truck.

September 2: I examined the Commissioner's records at Talkeetna noting in particular all records pertaining to land involved in the litigation of the Dutch Hills Exploration and Development Co.

In the evening I traveled to Anchorage via the Alaska Railroad.

Harold Stanton mined this year at the head of Falls Creek on ground owned by Nagley. The ground is seventy feet deep. Stanton works alone, hydraulicking with two nozzles. Information pertaining to Stanton's operations was obtained from Mr. Phil Brandl of the Nugget Creek Mining Co. KX-75-27

Larry Cummins and Ed Stronk were placer mining on Pass Creek, north of the Cache Creek District.

In the Cache Creek District during the 1951 season, there were six placer mining operations employing seven men. There was more rain than usual this year, and the miners were not hampered by a shortage of water. All of the operators mined by hydraulicking.

Fig. 1 is a generalized geologic cross-section of the Cache Creek valley. The average width of the stream bed on upper Cache Creek is less than 100 ft. The benches lie about 150 ft above the valley floor. In the early days, the deposits in the stream beds were mined by hand methods. At the present time the miners are hydraulicking the unsorted gravel in the benches.

Talkeetna 75

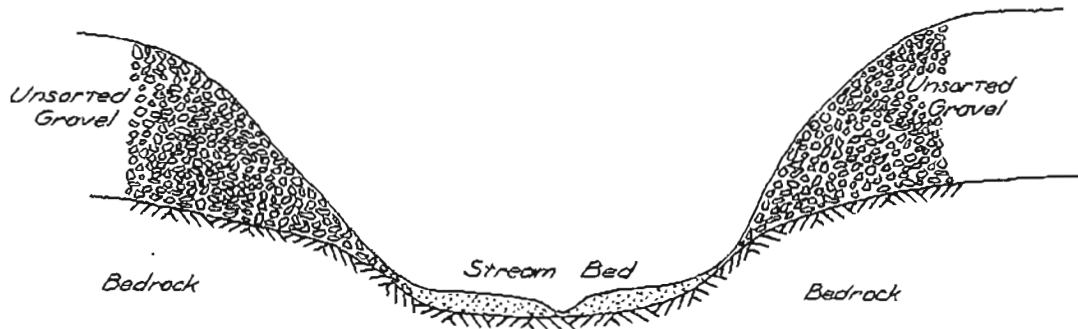


Fig. 1

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In the deposition of the bench gravel, which is essentially glacial till, running water played a very minor part. Consequently the gold is scattered throughout the deposit instead of being concentrated in pockets or channels on bedrock. It is improbable, therefore, that the present day miners will discover any deposits as rich as those mined in the stream beds in the early days.

There are several small outcrops of coal, probably low-grade lignite, along the valley of Cache Creek. Lack of timber in the district enhances the importance of the coal to the local miners. It is improbable, however, that the coal could ever be mined for sale outside the Cache Creek District.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert H. Saunders
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Associate Mining Engineer