

TERRITORY OF ALASKA  
DEPARTMENT OF MINES  
COLLEGE, ALASKA

November 11, 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 James A. Williams and Robert H. Saunders, Associate Mining Engineers, for the period September 25, 1951, to October 4, 1951.

This trip was made to examine the copper properties on Glacier Creek being prospected by the Alaska Copper Co. and to examine a molybdenum property near McCarthy.

September 25: Fairbanks to Copper Center via Alaska Coachways.

September 26: At Copper Center.

We spent some time going over the records of Mr. Carl Edin, U. S. Commissioner. In 1945 a fire destroyed all the records at Copper Center, so there are now no records except those recorded after the fire. We were unable to get any information from the Commissioner's records regarding the molybdenum property referred to by Mr. Whinery.

September 27: Copper Center to Chitina via the Chitina Limousine Service.

September 28: At Chitina.

Weather prohibited flying to Glacier Creek.

We talked to Al Moore, a resident of Chitina, who years ago staked some claims on a molybdenum showing near the glacier at the head of Canyon Creek. Rhinehart Berg was in Chitina; after a prospecting trip in the Kobuk River Region he spent the rest of the summer working for Howard Sparks on the Mackowitz antimony property in the Sawtooth Mountains.

September 29: At Chitina.

Weather prohibited flying to Glacier Creek.

September 30: Chitina to Glacier Creek via the Cordova Air Service.

In the afternoon we visited the prospect tunnel being driven on the left limit of Glacier Creek just upstream from Radovan Gulch. - KX-47-1

October 1: At Glacier Creek.

We visited the diamond drill set-up and examined outcrops up the mountain-side above the site of the drill holes. In the afternoon we again examined

the tunnel and also some outcrops above the tunnel. The property will be described in more detail in a separate report.

October 2: Glacier Creek to McCarthy via Cordova Air Service.

In the afternoon we examined a molybdenum prospect on Porphyry Mountain about four miles from McCarthy. We made a rough survey of the underground workings and took some samples. Because of snow we were unable to see any surface outcrops. A separate report will be written to describe the property.

October 3: McCarthy to Chitina via Cordova Air Service.

October 4: Chitina to Fairbanks.

There was no bus to Fairbanks before October 7, so we returned home by hitch-hiking.

Since the close of the Kennecott operations, Chitina has become a "ghost town". The town still has a general store, postoffice, hotel, and a power plant. Most of the buildings in the town are owned by C. A. Nelson. The power plant, a small hydro-electric plant on the bank of the Copper River, was built by Mr. Nelson. A tunnel driven under the lake adjacent to the town provides water to turn the pelton wheel. Enough power is generated to light the commercial buildings and the homes of the few people still residing in Chitina.

During the summer of 1951, a crew of about six men, employed in salvaging the rails from the Copper River and Northwestern Railroad, boarded at the Chitina Hotel and used the town as a base for their operations. Other guests at the hotel were mostly fishermen and vacationers attracted to the town by its seclusion and by the natural beauty of the surrounding country.

McCarthy, too, has become a "ghost town" since the close of the Kennecott operations. For about ten years after the railroad was abandoned, McCarthy continued to serve as a distribution center for the placer mines on Dan and Chititu Creeks. Freight was hauled over the railroad by a gas-driven car, then hauled over roads by truck or wagon to the mining camps. Funds for maintenance of the railroad were provided by the Alaska Road Commission. Presumably the cost of maintenance became greater each year, and after about ten years the Road Commission ceased providing funds. The track is now impassable, and the rails are being salvaged for re-sale, thus ending all hopes that the railroad will ever again serve the mining region east of Chitina.

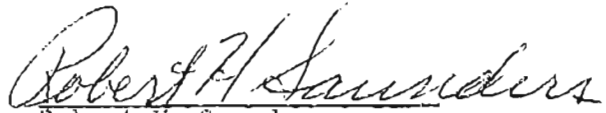
Mr. Henry Schultz was at McCarthy this summer working on a copper prospect. He did not divulge the location of the prospect, nor did he desire to have anyone visit the property until he has satisfied himself that he has a minable deposit. He has an Ingersoll-Rand J-10 jack hammer and a Spot-Air Compressor on a wheelbarrow-type mount that he was taking to the prospect at the time of our visit.

Mr. Bill Berry, also a resident of McCarthy, gave us more information concerning the molybdenum showing that it had been staked and prospected by Al Moore. Berry described the deposit as an igneous dike with numerous small stringers of molybdenite parallel to the dike walls. He said that Al Moore was working on one wide high-grade stringer. Berry estimated that the dike was 600 ft wide and that it would average about one-half of one per cent molybdenum. The best way to reach the property is to go on foot up the large glacier that fills a left tributary of Canyon Creek. Berry said that there is a similar outcrop, probably the same dike, on the right limit of Hawkins Glacier about three miles to the southeast.

Berry also told us that he thinks there is a vein of radio-active minerals about two inches wide on the right limit side of the Chitina Glacier. He said he found the vein while sheep hunting many years ago. By wrapping samples from the vein with coins in photographic film he said he was able to get prints of the coins. Unfortunately he now has no samples from that vein.

Because of the high cost of mining and transportation, there was no mining on Dan Creek nor on Chititu Creek this year.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Robert H. Saunders  
Associate Mining Engineer

\*Note:  
In later correspondence Mr. Berry denied any knowledge of  
such an occurrence.