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JR 195-9

July 13, 1953ITINERARY REPORT

JUNEAU, ALASKA

TO: Phil R. Holdsworth, Commissioner of Mines

FROM: M. W. Jasper, Associate Mining Engineer

SUBJECT: Trip to Copper River valley to check on mining activity in the region, and locate and tentatively arrange for horses for the proposed reconnaissance study of the Nutzotin Mountains later in the season, the latter investigation having objective of determining whether structural and mineralization conditions hold possibilities for occurrences of important nickel-copper deposits similar to those now under intensive exploration and development on the Yukon Territory side of the boundary.

6/24 - 6/26, 1953

Arch 65

June 24: Left the Alaska Gypsum Queen Company camp at Mile 112 $\frac{1}{2}$ on the Glen Highway at 1:30 P. M., following completion of examination of George Fennimore's copper prospects on east side of Iron Creek (or Yellow Jacket Creek). Sheep Mountain area.

At Eureka Roadhouse the location for first "wildcat" drill hole of the Alaska Oil and Development Company, selected by their consulting petroleum geologist, Mr. Thornberg, was pointed out; its location is approximately 1000 feet northwest of the highway. This first hole is scheduled to be "spudded-in" by mid-August.

The United States Geological Survey were stated to have a 4 or 5 man party in the hills north of the highway, their project primarily designed as a correlation of the sedimentary structures for oil and gas exploration. Lou Anderton is the packer, and is using all of his horses on this project.

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George Ballinger was reported to be working on his "Discovery" placer claim with one man. This property is located on Albert Creek, a tributary of Crooked Creek, the latter flowing into the Little Nelchina River.

No work is being done on the placer property of Slim McMahn, which is also on Albert Creek, adjoining Mr. Ballinger.

Glen Allen. Inquiry was made at the Road Commission office; it was reported that the new road taking off from Richardson Highway from point near Paxon's, would be ready for fourth of July use to Tangle Lakes - a distance of 10 miles.

Gakona. Information obtained here indicated Jacob Berry and Associates expected to complete ~~operation~~ ^{erection} of their track-mounted washing plant and excavation equipment and expected to be operating latter part of season on placer property of Middle Fork Mining Company, located on the

Middle Fork of the Chestochina River. This report has since been confirmed, with 5 men employed. No other work in placer area of the Chestochina drainage basin has been reported.

Chestochina. Effort was made to contact Harry Boyden without success. It was reported, however, that Mr. Boyden was not particularly interested in rental or use of his horses.

Knute Peterson was said to be prospecting this season on Trail Creek north of the Nabesna Highway. This road, reconditioned where required by Slim McMan on trip with his D-8 to build the airfield at Orange Hill, was reported to be in very good condition.

Approaches were being built on east and west side of Chestochina River for the new bridge planned for 1954. Contractors crews were busy at number of sections between Gakona and Chestochina graveling the highway and raising the roadbed several feet in places.

The night was spent at Chestochina.

July 25. Left Chestochina at 8 A. M.

Copper Center. Time was spent at Mining Records office going over the records. Only one recent Notice of Location of Lode Claim was recorded. This is recorded in Vol. 14, Page 300. The location was made by prospector Victor Manville June 13, 1953, and filed for record on June 22, 1953, with John S. Hellenenthal and J. G. Hern as Witnesses. The discovery and location was limited to one claim, and is described as follows:-

"Seven miles from the junction of the Cantwell road with the Richardson Highway".

This is doubtless located in and to north of the Tangle Lakes area and is a copper showing which Mr. Manville discussed with me in May 1953. At that time he reported having spent part of the last two seasons ('51 and '52) in effort to trace large "float", containing fairly highgrade bornite and chalcocopyrite, to its source. At that time he stated he was returning there this season to make a "last effort", which apparently was successful.

The second recording of interest was a Deed of Mining Claims between Martin F. Radovan and Delano Mining Company, which read roughly as follows:-

"Made 23rd day of May, 1953, between Martin F. Radovan, party of first part, and Delano Mining Company, a limited partnership, the party of second part, has transferred to party of second part the following mining claims:-

"Triassic No.s 1 to 13 (located April 1929 through to August 1931), Triassic No.s 30 to 32 (located in April August 1931 and August 1948), Augusta located in July 1948, Boots in 1948 (also July), Ki-Ki located in August 1948, Pongo Boy located in 1948, consisting of one contiguous group of approximately 400 acres.

"The foregoing mineral claims are situated along or near Glacier Creek, Chitistone Mining District, in Chitina Recording District, Copper Center, Alaska."

Mining Recorder (and U. S. Commissioner for the District) Carl Edin "believes" he is cooperating and following procedure carried in amendments passed by the Territorial Legislature this year. However, that is questionable due to his lack of training, proper interpretation, and belief the compensation is not sufficient where individual filing for record fails to submit a duplicate. Although he has a typewriter and an amateur "hunt & and pecker" typist should be able to knock out a couple average Notices of Location or Proofs of Labor or Deeds, he complained that it was necessary for ~~for~~ him to "farm out" that work and pay \$2.00 for an ^{an hour} hours work in copying a couple of documents. Mr. Edin was "encouraged" and advised to contact our Department on any questions that might arise.

Chitina. Continuing toward Valdez in afternoon, roads crews did not advise or post road that the Tiekel bridge had washed out that morning. At Mile 62 a survey ^{crew} advised of washout, and trip was made to Chitina, arriving there at 6 P. M.

That evening and following morning O. A. Nelson, Frank Carroll, and Mrs. Jean Richards gave information covering limited mining activities in the McCarthy district. This confined to following:-

(Glacier Creek)

Chick Nelson copper property. Diamond drilling program was started with Wm. O'Neil as consultant, but work suspended due to sudden illness of the diamond drill operator who was flown out to hospital. 87-25

Radvan copper property. The Delana Mining Company awarded a 400 foot tunnel contract in late May or early June. It was reported that 200 feet remained to complete the contract. 87-1

J. B. O'Neil, Dan Creek placer. Walter Holmes with one man is doing the assessment work on this ground. 87-2

There is no activity on Chittitu Creek.

Claus Wilhelm is watchman at the Kennicott property.

Charles Jacobsen was reported to be prospecting on Young Creek.

Activities of Victor Rhinnie are causing a great deal of unfavorable comment.

June 26. Pilot Haille of Cordova Airways was contacted. Based at Chitina, he provides service for the Copper River region and Shushanna District, with a 3-place Piper. He reported that N. P. Nelson, Harry Sutherland, Al Wright, and Wm. James and wife were only ones he knew to be in the Shushanna district. Plane service to the latter area is on or about the 1st, 5th, 10th, 15th, 20th, and 25th of each month, and the fare is \$23.00 each way.

Pilot Haille also advised he was servicing the Kennicott exploration party at Orange Hill. Mr. Glen Reed is the company engineer in charge, and a crew of 4 is employed. A portable gasoline powered jack-hammer is being used for surface open-cut work, and geophysical equipment has been flown in.

It was interesting to note that on questioning Frank Carroll regarding the Chitina population, he stated that an actual count last Christmas showed 210 people were residing in and near the town.

Left Chitina at 10:30 A. M. The Valdez Highway remained closed until June 29th.

Copper Center. Contacted Pilot Smoke Thomas, who operates a 3-place Piper plane, and is based at Slana, taking out hunting parties and others.

Pilot Thomas advised he is familiar with the Nutzotin Mountain and Shushanna region, and has frequently landed on various river bars. It is suggested that if the study of that area is made this season that "servicing" of the party by means of a small plane be considered.


Pilot Thomas also advised he had just returned from trip into the Chisna river (Chestochina district) where he relocated the open glacier ground along that stream.

Returned to Anchorage at 8:30 P. M. on June 26th.

Last week Slim McMahn advised that Louis Elmer had relocated the open ground on Slate Creek July 1st, 1953.

KX
68-12

Anchorage, Alaska
July 13, 1953

Respectfully submitted,

M. V. Jasper
Associate Mining Engineer



June 26, 1953
Chitina business district





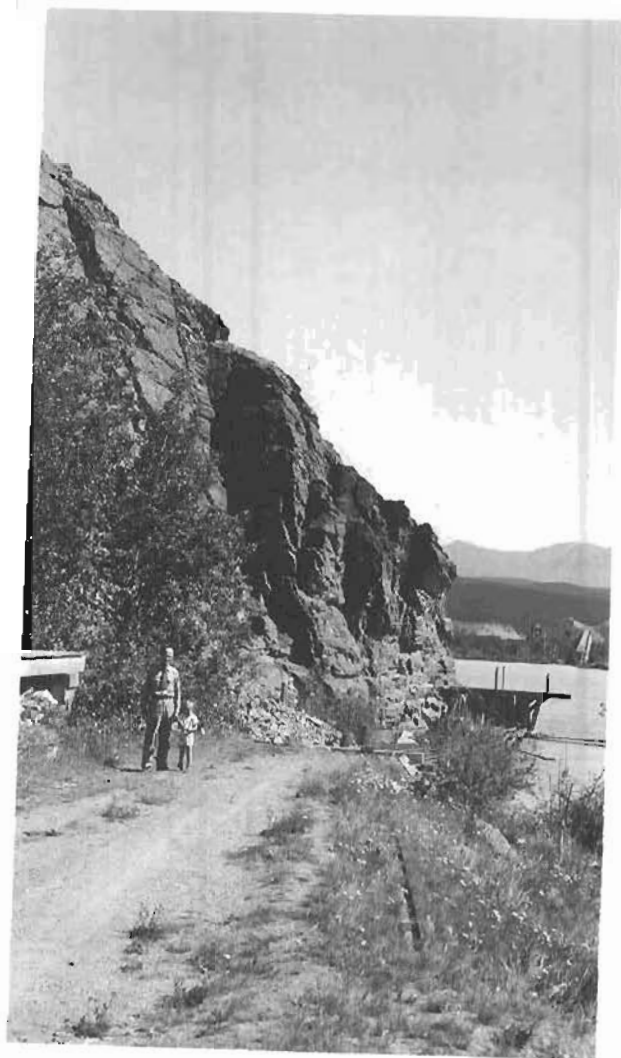
June 26, 1953
Chitina. 2400 lb slab of native
copper

"Greeter" on highway
to Ghost Town of
Chitina



June 26, 1953

Chitina approach to the old
Copper River railway bridge



June 26, 1953

Liberty Falls, Chitina Highway