

SUMMARY REPORT OF MINING INVESTIGATIONS IN THE
CACHE CREEK, INNOKO, IDITAROD, ANIAK-TOLUKSAK,
AND GOODNEWS BAY DISTRICTS

to
B. D. STEWART, COMMISSIONER OF MINES
and
ITINERARY OF J. C. ROEHM, ASSOCIATE ENGINEER,
TERRITORIAL DEPARTMENT OF MINES,
September 1 to 30, 1938.

September 2-3. En route Valdez to Anchorage.

Cache Creek District:

The Cache Creek district was not visited this season. The following notes were received from individuals who visited the district this year.

Pat McDonald, Inc. sold their complete equipment, including washing plant and hydraulic to the newly organized Spokane Peters Creek Mining Company. This latter company was reported as having taken over the complete holdings of the Peters Creek Mining Company including the Cache Creek holdings leased from Morgan & Kellog last fall. Mr. Porter is in charge for the new company. The washing plant was operated on Peters Creek most of the season. An early closing was brought about by the lack of profitable pay. This condition was anticipated during the visit last fall. The river bed of Peters Creek had been worked by the old company upstream to a point within the canyon where the narrowness would not permit the passing of the plant. The Cache Creek holdings were reported tested this season, but results were not learned.

The Cache Creek Mining Company operated by Morgan & Kellog has a newly constructed hydraulic plant on the right limit of Nugget Creek. This company was operating on a small scale last season during the writer's visit. The deposit is an old channel exposed on a bench of Nugget Creek and covered with glacial moraine. Three shifts were worked during the season, and good returns were reported.

C. L. Wagner is operating his hydraulic plant on Bird Creek with a small crew. Mike Trepte is operating again this season on Dutch Creek with a small crew. He has a small hydraulic plant. On upper Peters Creek, Jenkins is operating a hydraulic plant with a small crew. F. Sanderson is operating a small hydraulic with one man on ground leased from Nagley located on Falls Creek. Carlson and Anderson are operating with a small hydraulic on upper Falls Creek. Mr. Muir is sniping on Dollar Creek. Jack DeVault has six men employed and is operating a new hydraulic plant on Pass Creek in the Fairview section. Shonbeck & Beaton have taken over ten claims at the head of Mills Creek from Sam Wagner. They are starting a cut with bulldozer and hydraulic. Three men are employed. Nick Balalnof is hydraulicking alone on Cache Creek.

Talkeha 75

24-75-67

September 8. Arrive Takotna.

Innoko Precinct:

The expansion of placer mining activities within the Innoko precinct this season has been remarkable. The early months were rather dry and a shortage of water was reported. Generally, the operations were successful and a greater gold production for this district is anticipated. Four dredges, seven draglines and three operations with bulldozers represent the larger operations within the district. Three drills were reported in operation. Two more draglines are to be purchased for operations next year.

September 10. Takotna to Folger-Flat en route to Nyas.

Ophir District:

In the Cripple Creek area a new Northwest dragline, 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ yard bucket, was put into operation on Bear Creek at the mouth of Folger Creek. This operation is known as Hard, Uotila & Hanson. The dragline arrived on the property on July 19. Fourteen men have been employed during the season. This company has two diesel Caterpillars, an R. D. 6 and an R. D. 8. They have just completed an airplane landing field and a long bedrock drain. KX 64-15

The Cripple Creek Mining Company at Folger has been operating all season with 29 men employed. To date over a half million bedrock feet has been mined with a production of \$100,000. Another hundred thousand bedrock feet is expected to be mined before the end of the season. KX 64-49

The newly organized company, known as Three Miners, Inc. under the management of Havenstrite and Schweasdell, is operating a Bucyrus-Erie dragline, 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ yard bucket, and a Caterpillar and bulldozer on Esperanto Creek. This creek is a tributary of Madison Creek which flows into Tolstoi Creek. This company has 15 men employed. Reports were that this company produced \$70,000 in gold this season. The company has optioned 20 miles of ground on Camp Creek, located in the Kaiyuh Mountains. This placer ground was staked by John Repo, and Andy Schweasdell last year. This season the company has a crew of three men sinking test pits. Next season the company intends to put a dragline on this property, according to reports. KX 64-8

Sid Paulson is operating his hydraulic and bulldozer on Colorado Creek with an average crew of 10 men. Next year he intends to buy a dragline and operate the deeper creek gravels.

Six men were reported as prospecting in the vicinity of the Cripple Mountains. Last winter Mike Kovack sank a 90-foot shaft on a bench on Graham Creek below Cripple Creek.

In the Ophir area the transfer of the Ganes Creek Dredging Company property, including dredge and holdings on Ganes Creek, to the newly organized Holky Dredging Company, has brought about a much more profitable operation. This dredge was started on May 19 and has been running continuously. This company is operated by A. A. Shonbeck and associates. Seventeen men have been employed during the season. Two drill crews started in July drilling on Ganes Creek. HX 64-40

P. Savage and Matheson have taken over nearly all the ground on Spruce Creek, and they were reported as moving in a dragline this season. They are also operating their flume dredge on upper Ganes Creek with eight men employed on the dredge.

Speljack is operating a hydraulic and pumping plant with Caterpillar and bulldozer on the Coffey Bench claim on the right limit of Ganes Creek. J. Geskey is sluicing with one man and small hydraulic on a bench on the right limit of Lower Ganes Creek. Joe Degan is also hydraulicking with one man on the right limit of lower Ganes Creek. It was reported he was finding numerous nuggets showing part native silver and part gold. Frank Moss is operating a traction drill of his own make, 5-inch, on Ganes Creek above Spaulding Creek. Vibe & Schweasdel have been operating their dragline on Spaulding Creek with a crew of eight men. A very profitable season was reported. The Puntilla dredge has been operating all season on Little Creek. Nine men are employed. J. Ware and R. Jackama are hydraulicking on a bench on the right limit of Spruce Creek. Mrs. Anderson is continuing drift mining on Anvil Creek. The Zaiser Bros. are operating a bulldozer on upper Spaulding Creek. They are bulldozing into boxes and have 4 men employed. The Yankee Creek Dredge was recently purchased by N. J. Vibe along with all the holdings of the Flume Dredging Company. The dredge started July 20 and eight men are employed. Strandberg and Sons have been operating their dragline on Candle Creek. They have 14 men employed. Operations were somewhat curtailed this season due to lack of diesel oil, which during the latter part of the season had to be flown in by plane. Uotila & Ogriz have been operating their dragline on Moore Creek. They have 14 men employed. Reports were that they have been severely handicapped by a deep overburden and were not doing as good as expected. HX 73

Iditarod Area:

The season in the Iditarod placer area was reported as equal to last season and a similar figure in production is expected. The early season was dry and a water shortage was encountered at some operations. All the operations with the exception of two are operating at the same capacities as last season. Uotila & Ogriz closed their dragline operation on Slate Creek after operating part of the season. This dragline is to be moved to a new creek, vicinity unknown, this winter. The Iditarod Mining Company closed operations on their property on lower Willow Creek. Mr. P. Jensen, manager, is looking for a new property on which to move his 3-yard dragline. The operations in this district were not visited this season. HX 73-15

Edwards 73

Strandberg & Sons drilled Otter Creek for over two miles down beginning at the termination of the Matheson property. Low values were received for a distance of two miles and then these values fell to nil. Reports were that three million dollars was blocked out within this area. Further reports were to the effect that this property was turned down by Strandberg's engineer. It was estimated that a dredge cost would be \$650,000 and a four million dollar block of ground was needed before any profit could be made on the operation. Miscovich & G. Rodman are operating a hydraulic on Julian Creek 30 miles southeast of Flat. Eight men are employed. *KX 73-23*

September 11. Arrive Nyac.

Increased activity in the Aniak-Tuluksak district was noted, due to new discoveries and expansion within the operating companies. Three new dragline operations, with possibly a fourth, are the promise for next season. More prospecting followed by drilling and testing is being carried out in this district and south into the Togliak area, than last season. Four drills are in operation this season and considerable test pitting is to be done this coming winter season.

81

Gus Wilson sold his machinery and lease on Marvel Creek to H. Dukand & Awe of Flat for \$25,000. The placer ground on Taylor Creek, owned by Wiseman and associates of Bethel has been leased to Strandberg and Sons. Further drilling will be done on this property this fall.

Russell Mission

The New York Alaska Gold Dredging Company had a very busy season. Two dredges were operated from May 3 until November 5, on which date the new bunk house caught fire by an unknown cause and burned to the ground. Axel Auldman was trapped within the burning structure and burned to death. Due to lack of further housing facilities the men had to be flown out, and the dredges closed for the season. Work was also discontinued on the new hydro-electric project. The 21,000 feet of ditch was completed this season and the power house was built. It was the intent of the company to complete the first of the three 500 H. P. units this season, but due to the fire this was not completed. This company has a total of 243 adjoining claims on Bear Creek, Tuluksak river, and several of their tributaries. Last winter Ophir Creek was leased and drilled by the company. The highest pay hole gave results of 28 cents a yard. Most of the holes were nil and traces, and as a result the lease was dropped.

The No. 2 dredge was enlarged from a $1\frac{1}{2}$ cubic foot to a 2 cubic foot by the addition of enlarged lips on the buckets. This dredge averaged 1800 cubic yards daily with results over a thousand dollars per day in gold. The No. 3 dredge was operated continuously with a capacity of 3700 cubic yards daily. This dredge was operating on lower pay gravels. A \$300,000 production was expected this year, however, the early closing date may have caused the actual production to have fallen short of this figure.

Granite Creek:

September 14. A new discovery of placer gold was made on Granite Creek by Clarence Marsh. Granite Creek is a small tributary of the Tuluksak River, which it joins 10 miles below the junction of Bear Creek. Its length, with its largest tributary, is six miles. Clarence Marsh and associates, J. Winters and Alex Liska, have a group of 38 claims staked on the creek. The creek was staked last winter and the discovery was made in drilling this season in July. On August 1, Marsh started operating with bulldozer and four men, bulldozing into boxes. Four holes were drilled on claim No. 11 below discovery. The average depth was 8 feet to bedrock. A total of 43,000 bedrock feet is expected to be cleaned this season. The bedrock cleaned averaged 30 cents per bedrock foot. This winter the creek is to be drilled. From the geological conditions that exist in this drainage basin and the surrounding hills, very favorable results should be obtained.

During the period of September 12-25 the entire time was spent in the examination of the tributary creeks of the Tuluksak River and Bear Creek. The New York Alaska Gold Dredging Company is very anxious to obtain favorable ground for future operation. Advice was given the company freely, regarding certain creeks that were suspected. Marsh's ground on Granite Creek was recommended to the company as a good possibility for a small dredge. In covering this area and the numerous creeks favorable consideration of the creeks depended on their location with reference to the granite intrusive within the area and whether or not they had been subject to ice action. Thus the writer began the construction of a geological map showing the limits of the intrusive. This covers an area of approximately 240 square miles. It was the intent, through the cooperation of the company furnishing the plane and aerial camera, to make complete photographs of the section on which the writer was to apply the geology. Continued foggy and rainy weather prevented the taking of aerial photographs. As a result the eastern margin of the intrusive granite along the Tuluksak River to the head of Bear Creek was mapped. To finish the area and include the western contact would require a period of two or three weeks further field work. This would reveal creeks which may possibly contain good pay. The early summer months, May and June, would be the period of best weather in this area. A special report of this district and the creeks covered is to be compiled, however, this will not be a completed report of the district.

September 25. Upper Bear Creek.

John Brink is operating a small hydraulic with one man employed on claim No. 3 above discovery on Bear Creek. He has this ground leased from the New York Alaska Gold Dredging Company. He started sluicing on June 16 and ended on September 30. This season he has cleaned 6,000 feet of bedrock and expects between a \$1500 and \$2000 clean-up.

John Auld has been shoveling-in on Spruce Creek, a tributary of Bear Creek. He has had one man employed and has cleaned 3,000 bedrock feet. Thus far he has produced 16 ounces.

On Marvel Creek, Gus Wilson has been operating a drag scraper two shifts with seven men employed. 43,000 bedrock feet were cleaned this season and a total clean-up of \$30,000 is expected. This is his last season of operation as he sold the machinery and lease to F. Awe & H. DuRand of Flat. DuRand is buying a 37 B. Bucyrus-Erie dragline, 65-foot boom, and 1½ yard bucket, D 8800 pumping unit and R. D. 8 Caterpillar, for this property. K+91-1

G. Wilson has made a discovery on upper Eagle Creek, into which Marvel flows, and expects to operate next year, depending on the results obtained from test pitting.

On Taylor Creek, five men have been employed part of the season doing assessment work. This consisted of test pitting with a Rex pump and drilling. Twenty-five test pits were sunk and values averaging one dollar a yard were reported.

Jack Peck, W. Rice and Roy Douglas have optioned Dr. Carter's ground on Dome and Loco creeks and Jim Davidson's ground on Cripple Creek. This season they have three men engaged in test pitting. The area under option totals 60 claims. Pay gravels averaging 200 to 300 feet in width and values ranging from 75¢ to \$1 a yard were reported. The depth of the pay gravel ranges from 7 to 9 feet. K+91-9

Chris Dahl is prospecting with a partner on Dominion Creek. Anderson Bros. have four natives employed shoveling-in on Canyon Creek.

Marshall Area:

Much interest and activity has been in progress in the Marshall area in the vicinity of Stuyahok. Three new draglines were put in operation this season--a second dragline by the Stuyahok Mining Company, one by the newly organized company, Kako Mining Company, and the Ericson-Bennet operation. A shortage of water in the early part of the season delayed operations.

The Stuyahok Mining Company employed 30 men this season. Two Bucyrus-Erie draglines and two bulldozers were reported in operation. These operations are managed by V. Hitt. 350,000 to 400,000 yards of gravel were reported moved. K+92-1

The newly organized Kako Mining Company was operating a P. & H. dragline and bulldozer on Kako Creek. This creek is located below Stuyahok and drains into the Yukon River. Fifteen men were employed under the management of Joe Ramsted.

Russian Mis. 81

Ostness and Johnson were operating with a few men employed near Marshal. Erickson and Bennett are operating with a new Bucyrus-Erie dragline on Nelson Creek near Marshal. Fifteen men were reported employed.

Joe Konechney did assessment work on his copper property, located on Mission Creek in the Russian Mountains. The upper tunnel, elevation 2700 feet, had a reported length of 350 feet. The lower tunnel, elevation 2500 feet, has a length of 560 feet.

Togiak Area:

Two new companies have been formed in this area within the last year. Both have been engaged in prospecting and drilling.

Al Jones of Anchorage has formed the Rainy Creek Placers. This company has five men employed. A drilling program with an airplane drill has been in progress on Rainy Creek all season. The company also has a 40 H. P. Holt tractor and a one yard scraper in operation stripping. No production has been made this season.

Nat Brown has formed the Togiak Mining Company and has six men employed in Trail Creek three miles above its mouth. Trail Creek empties into the Togiak River. He has installed a hydraulic, and is also operating a small tractor and home made bulldozer. His hydraulic plant consists of 2,000 feet of pipe, giving an 80-foot head, and two nozzles are used. He started sluicing on September 25 and a small production is expected. The gravel averages 3 to 5 feet in depth. Harry Townsend examined the operation this season. Also, the quartz lode prospects were sampled by Townsend on Canyon Creek. Considerable prospecting was reported carried on in this area this season, but no new discoveries were reported.

September 26. Nyac to Bethel.

Goodnews Bay District:

A good season was reported in the Goodnews Bay district this year. The dredge of the Goodnews Bay Mining Company has been in continuous operation since April 26. This company has also been operating two draglines. On the left limit of Platinum Creek at the mouth, a very rich spot was encountered with the dragline and reports were that 300 pounds of platinum was taken out in six days. Reports were that over a million dollars in platinum has been mined from this district this season. Ten drills were reported operating in the area this season.

New operations within the district are the new dredge on Wattamus Creek, new dragline on Kow Kow Creek, and a hydraulic and Caterpillar bulldozer operation on Butte Creek. Only a few prospectors were reported within the district and most of the drilling ventures were unsuccessful.

Goodnews 101

Alaska 101

101

KK 23-2

Margerite
123

The Clara Creek Mining Company operated their dragline at the head of Clara Creek at the base of the mountain. Good returns were reported and 18 men were employed. Sam Cotton drilled this season on the Joe Hill ground on the west side of Susie Mountain. Negative results were obtained and the drill and tractor was sold to the Goodnews Bay Mining Company. Jerry Hunter drilled on the west side of Red Mountain with an airplane drill. Negative results were reported. Roselund's drill was used. Gus Burness also drilled on the west side of Red Mountain with negative results. Garrison and Son drilled on Margerite Creek in the Slug River area. Test pits were also put down. Some values were reported on a false bedrock at an average depth of 4 feet.

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In the Arolic section considerable drilling was done by Strandberg and Sons on Snow Gulch. Results were poor and the option of the P. Mosseness ground was dropped. The Goodnews Bay Mining Company was drilling on their holdings on the Arolic River. Reports were that bedrock was not encountered, only low values received, and the entire holdings were dropped. *KX 101-23*

Good news 101

The Kow Kow Mining Company on Kow Kow Creek experienced considerable trouble this season, and was reported as only making expenses. They have a new P. & H. dragline, 1½ yard bucket, and Caterpillar-bulldozer. Fifteen men were employed. They started sluicing in July and ended in late September. They mined a cut 1300 by 180 feet. The gravels averaged 7 feet in depth to a false bedrock. A production of \$30,000 was reported. *KX 101-14*

Pete Mosseness employed two men on Snow Gulch and did some sluicing into boxes with a bulldozer. John Huff had six men employed and was operating a hydraulic, Caterpillar and bulldozer on Butte Creek. Reports were that a successful season was experienced. Harry Cloes was reported prospecting in the Arolic area.

In the upper Goodnews River area the Bristol Bay Mining Company, a newly organized company by W. Johnson, Felder and Gale, constructed their 2-cubic foot dredge and began operating on September 20. The first clean-up was reported double the drill values for the ground. This dredge has a wooden hull and was built by W. Johnson. This company also drilled on Barnum Creek. On this company's Fox Creek holdings, some sluicing was done. Considerable drilling also was reported and an old pay channel was found. *KX 101-b*

Two natives, Christen & H. Oya were reported as having discovered gold at the head of Barnum Creek. \$11 in coarse gold was panned at the time of discovery. Walter Culver did considerable prospect drilling in the vicinity of the head of the Goodnews River. Reports were that no commercial gravels were found. T. Edgington, Geo. Romondas and Jack O'Keefe were reported as having made a new discovery on the Ascack River near the head. This river is located west of Togiak Lake and its exact location is not known.

September 27-30. At Bethel.

October 1. Bethel to Anchorage.