

TERRITORY OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF MINES
COLLEGE, ALASKA

IR Misc
IR 195-46

Report of Mining Investigations - *By Bruce Thomas*
September 1946

The following is a detailed report of the mining investigations conducted during the month of September 1946.

During the month a field trip was made down the Richardson, Nabesna, Edgerton and Glen Allen Highways to investigate the mining activities in areas adjacent to the highways and also obtain data from persons who had knowledge of prospecting and mining operations in outlying regions. During this trip, special care was made to inform people about the functions of the Department of Mines and let them know about the services rendered to the miners and prospectors.

A field trip was made to the mining operations of Alluvial Gold, Inc. at Woodchopper Creek and Gold Placers, Inc. at Coal Creek. On this examination an inspection of the dredges was made and operating data from both companies was obtained.

Office:

Office space is still maintained at the University. During the month three visitors called at the office.

Mr. Harry Townsend called for information on the Mineral River Area, the Goodpaster District and the Radavan Copper Prospect in the Chitistone River Area. No information was available on the Mineral River Area. However, Mr. Townsend obtained some information on the Goodpaster Lode deposits and the Radavan Copper prospect.

Mr. Ben Bevin, of Flat, called at the office for some general information about mercury deposits. He reports finding a cinnabar prospect, occurring in slate, in the headwater regions of the Innoko River. Mr. Bevin expects to return to the prospect next summer.

Several years ago Mr. Bevin spent some time prospecting on Unga Island. He reports having found an oil seep on the south west shore; no details were given. If further investigation substantiates the presence of an oil seep an examination should be made by the Department.

OCT 17 1946

B. L. ...

Mr. Woodrow Johansen, of Fairbanks, called at the office to obtain information about the placers deposits on Confederate Creek in the Forty Mile. He is making an investigation with the possibility of leasing some property on Confederate, owned by Mrs. Heid of Nenana.

KX-60-73

CHITINA DISTRICT

The placer mines on Dan Creek and Chititu Creek have been working with small crews during the past summer. These mines constitute the only placer operations in the entire district; there are no active lode mines. The Kennecott Copper Corporation still has a watchman at its properties at McCarthy and Kennecott.

The few active prospectors in the district have confined their work to areas adjacent to the roads and highways.

The following information was obtained from Mr. O.A. Nelson of Chitina.

Dan Creek

The Partners Mines Corp., J. Price manager, have been doing a small amount of maintenance work on their properties during the past summer. This work was accomplished by Mr. Price and one assistant.

KX-87-

McCarthy 82

Chititu Creek

The Chititu Mines, Chas. Creamer manager, have been working with a small crew of five men. They have been sluicing although the crew is not equivalent to the usual fifteen to sixteen men of pre-war years.

KX-87-
+72

Rex Creek tributary Chititu Creek

It is reported that Fred Erickson cleaned up ten ounces of gold while shoveling in on Rex Creek during the summer.

Prospects and Prospectors

Martin Radavon has spent the entire summer at his copper property on Glacier Creek a tributary of the Chitistone River. The nature of Mr. Radavon's accomplishment could not be obtained.

KX-87-1

Joe Summers has been driving an addit to open up a gold prospect on Williams Peak. Mr. Summers worked continuously on this prospect during the summer.

Mr. K.J. Rickey and associates, Melvin Chase, O.A. Nelson and A. Nelson, have located a high grade gold prospect in the unmapped area west of Chitina, about eight miles from Liberty Falls.

Val 86

Mr. Rickey reports that they have located a high grade gold quartz vein 22" wide. The predominant rock in the vicinity of the prospect is monzonite. Outcrops of schist are found a short distance from the vein.

Mr. Rickey did not wish to take any one up to the prospect until they were able to do some trenching and possible underground development. He thinks there are not enough exposures to justify an examination of the property. Tentative arrangements have been made for an examination next summer.

The information regarding the prospect is to be kept confidential. The discoverers of the vein are still staking claims and they wish to make more locations before their find becomes general public knowledge.

CHISANA DISTRICT

There has been very little prospecting or mining activities in the Chisana District during the past summer. There are two lode prospectors and two small scale placer operators in the district.

The following information about the activities in the Chisana District was obtained from O.A. Nelson of Chitina, Carl Whitam of Nabesna, and Earl Hirst of Fairbanks.

Bonanza Creek

N.P. Nelson has been shoveling in on Bonanza Creek. It is reported that he recovered 3 ounces of gold from his summers efforts.

KX-78-39

Little Eldorado Creek

During the summer Joe Davis has been shoveling-in on Little Eldorado Creek.

Prospectors

Earl Hirst and Harry Sutherland have been prospecting for lode deposits in the Chisana District. They have not reported any new discoveries.

CHISTOCHINA DISTRICT

There are three active placer operations in the Chistochina District. So far as known at the present time there are no prospectors in the region.

Nabesna 78

Chistochina 77

Middle Fork Chistochina River

The Middle Fork Mining Co., Martin Jasper manager, have been engaged in repairing their equipment preparatory to sluicing next season. They have had ten men employed during the summer.

KX
68-26

Slate Creek

The Slate Creek Mining Co., J.M. Elmer manager, have eight men doing preparatory work during the summer.

KX
68-12

Eagle Creek (to be checked further)

The two White brothers have been mining on Eagle Creek using gravity water to feed the boxes and a bulldozer to stack tailing.

KX 77-35

SLANA DISTRICT

Ahtel Creek - 77-7 & 77-27

Fred Bronichi has been hand mining on a small left limit tributary to Ahtel Creek.

NABESNA DISTRICT

The Nabesna Mining Corp. is developing a new ore body on the Golden Eagle Claim. The ore mined from this deposit is reported to assay about \$21.50 a ton.

KX-783-
2627

The mill, running one shift, treats about 20 tons of ore a day. The cyanidation and flotation circuits have been cut out and concentrates were being made from sand and slime table. The ratio of concentration was reported as 71:1. Some difficulty was being had with uneven feed to the tables. This difficulty was attributed to the improper regulation of the classifier.

The worn decks of concentrating tables are being replaced with soft sheet rubber instead of battleship linoleum. It was not known if this would have any appreciable effect on the ratio of concentration.

The entire crew numbered 14 men; wages paid were at the following rates:

- Miner - \$64.00 per week gross
- Mucker - \$56.00 per week gross
- Board deducted at rate of \$10.50 per week

Diesel fuel costs 11¢ per gallon at Valdez and about 21¢ per gallon at the mine.

Mt Hayes
68

Gulkana
77

Nabesna 78

COPPER CENTER

Information, courtesy Mrs. Barnes.

Klutina Lake

R.D. Walwith is lone prospecting in the vicinity of Klutina Lake. Mr. Walwith has prospected in this section for many years. It is reported that he has done considerable trenching but the results of his work are not known.

BIG DELTA RIVER

Miller Gulch

The Yukon Engineering Co. is prospect drilling on a small bar on the Big Delta River at the mouth of Miller Gulch. Mr. Ed Herlbut, foreman, estimates 25,000 cubic yards of gravel averaging 41¢ a cubic yard have been blocked out. Drilling will be continued in order to block out additional ground.

The character of the gravel is coarse with many large boulders. The gold is fine and disseminated through the gravels to a depth of 14 feet. No bedrock has been reached in the drill holes.

The crew consists of three men; the foreman who is the driller, one helper and a cook.

According to Mr. Herlbut, who is a stockholder in the Yukon Engineering Co., no mining will be attempted until a substantial yardage is developed. This information is contrary to statements made by Mr. Sherman who has oftentimes said that active mining is under way at Miller Gulch.

FAIRBANKS DISTRICT

Buckeye Creek tributary to Banner Creek

Frank Cambell is shoveling-in on Hinkely Gulch, a tributary to Buckeye Creek.

Caribou Creek - Salcha River

Information courtesy A.B. Shallit

The Brinker-Johnson Company is operating their 4 cubic foot dredge on Caribou Creek. The rated capacity of the dredge is 4000 cubic yards a day but they have been actually digging 3500 cubic yards a day during the season. The average depth of

KX 59-22

KX 59-27

M.H. Hayes
68

Big Delta
59

the dredge section is 30 feet, of which 28 feet is gravel and 2 feet is bedrock. The average value is 25¢ a cubic yard. The gravels are covered with an average of 3 feet of muck and are partially frozen. Stripping is kept well in advance of the dredge to permit natural thaw of gravels.

The total number of employees is 16; wages and working hours are as follows:

Classification	Base Rate (40 hrs) per hour	Work Week Hours
Winchman	1.36	70
Oilers	1.22	70
Deck hands	1.06	70
Cat Drivers	1.22	70
Foreman	1.27	70
Piper	1.36	70
Cook	0.85	77

The bulk of supplies, repair parts and fuel oil is hauled from Fairbanks via winter trail up the Salcha River for \$25.00 per ton. Air freight from Fairbanks to Caribou Creek is 5¢ per pound.

Brinker-Johnson Co. expect to operate their dredge on Caribou Creek during the 1947 season.

Ester Creek (Placer)

F. Parker, J. Raymon and F. Hopkins, three partners, worked on #5 Discovery, Ester Creek, on a lease from the U.S.S .R. & M. Co.

Ester Dome (Lode)

Ryan Lode (Bartholomae)

Mr. George Hellerick and one assistant have been preparing claims for patent. In conjunction with this work considerable trenching has been done with a bulldozer.

Grant Property

Mr. O.M. Grant, owner and operator of the Grant Property, did a small amount of preparatory work early in the summer but due to high costs, closed his mine for the year.

Mr. Grant reports that Ventures Ltd. dropped their options in his Ester Dome property (gold) and Mt. Eilegon property (zinc) in July of this year. He stated that Ventures Ltd. had paid him \$250.00 a month since 1942 to hold these properties.

Big Delta 59

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Fairbanks

44-58-154

44-66-2

Sanford Property

Inactive. 50 tons of ore on dump to be milled.

KK-58-145

Borovich and Stevens

→ associates.

Trenching with bulldozer by John Hajdukovich and

KK-58-37

Lookout Vein (Emma Creek)

KK-58-117

Mr. Turnbarger, owner, and 3 men have been sinking a winze and installing an air hoist for handling ore.

At the present time Mr. Turnbarger has been negotiating with the U.S.S.R. & M. Co.

(This property had been tied up by the Yukon Engineering Co. for some time.)

CIRCLE DISTRICT

Coal Creek : Gold Placers, Inc. Dredging

The production and yardage for Gold Placers is as follows:

Production to 9/28/46	114,000
Est. to complete season	<u>25,000</u>
Total Production	139,000
Yardage to 9/28/46	265,465
Est. to complete season	<u>60,000</u>
Total yardage	315,465

KK-51-3

Average gold content about 40¢ a cubic yard and gold fineness 894-896.

The 4 cubic foot dredge digs 3000 cubic yards a day at an average depth of 11 feet.

An average of 25 men was employed during the season. They will close down Oct. 13 and expect to work during the 1947 season.

The following guards and handrails were recommended for safety precautions on the dredge:

Guards:

- Clutches on shafts - screen and stacker drive.
- Fly wheel and clutch, 135 H.P. Diesel
- Snubber sheave for ladder hoist
- Belt drive on generator
- Main drive pulley 88" - raise shoulder high

Fairbank, Alaska

Charlie River 51
Circle 50

Handrail:

Walk to booster pump to screen
Extend walk over to starboard to cross stern lines

Woodchopper Creek Alluvial Golds, Inc. Dredging

The production and yardage for Alluvial Golds, Inc. is as follows:

Production to 9/27/46	132,694	
Est. to end season	<u>30,000</u>	
Total production	\$ 162,694	
Yardage to 9/27/46	218,968	
Est. to end season	<u>50,000</u>	
Total yardage	268,968	

KX-511-25

Average gold content about 70% a cubic yard and gold fineness 923-924.

The 4 cubic foot dredge digs 2800 cubic yards a day at an average depth of 18.5.

An average of 25 men was employed during the season. They will close down Oct. 12 and expect to operate during the 1947 season.

The following guards and handrails were recommended for safety precautions on the dredge:

Guards:

- Clutches on shaft--screen and stacker drive
- Upper pulley on s wing winch belt drive
- Screen roller and pinion
- Screen belt drive
- Flywheel and clutch on main drive diesel 135
- Increase guard height on 88" pulley - main drive
- Belt drive on D.C. Generator
- Under belt from 90 H.P. Diesel to generator line shaft

Hand Rail:

- Repair hand rails over screen between intermediate drive and upper tumbled (port side)
- Double plant with hand rail to D.C. Generator
- Line shaft above pump engine should be guarded if feasible

Circle 10

The following wage scale and working hours are applicable to Gold Placers, Inc. and Alluvial Golds, Inc.

Classification	Base Rate (40 hrs) per hour	Work Week Hours
Winchmen	\$1.44	56
Oilers	1.28	56
Engineers	1.28	56
Shoremen	1.06	63
Cat Drivers	1.28	63
Labor	1.06	63
Cooks	0.84	91
Waitresses	0.72	84

Board is deducted at the rate of \$ 2.25 per day.

The operations at Coal Creek and Woodchopper Creek were hampered by the shortage of labor. The uncertainty of river boat transportation caused long delays in receipt of supplies and replacements.