

Office Memorandum . Territorial Department of Mines

IR 195-50

To : Phil R. Holdsworth

Office: Juneau

From : James A. Williams

Date : April 23 , 1956

Subject : ITINERARY REPORT - SKAGWAY AND HAINES, APRIL 18 to 20.

KX-109-28

Travelled to Skagway in A.M. of 18 April and examined showing on Albill No. 2 radioactive claim that afternoon. This was the only showing available because of snow conditions, contrary to what I had been informed, and though it was their main hope, it is too small to be significant as exposed thus far. The partners are determined to drill it, though, so I did not try to discourage them too much. A short report on the prospect will be forthcoming as soon as possible.

Had a long visit at supper time with Cyril Coyne, mayor, who informed me that several local prospectors had more prospects, and he specifically requested that I return to Skagway to help out the various individuals when the snow is gone in late June or early July. He brought up the question of the Taiya Valley being withdrawn to mineral entry when the Alcoa project was under consideration, but now that the project had been apparently abandoned, what could be done to restore the land to public domain so that it could be prospected, now that interest in prospecting is high.

Later in the evening I gave two ARC men explosive handlers' exams who had applied last year. They were not long on powder experience but had received sufficient coaching from the late Harry Bates that they were able to pass the exam. Their names are Lynn W. Ackerman and Clifford F. Matthews.

Arrived in Haines late in the morning, April 19. I went out to the Lutak road job being done by Ramstad where an applicant for an explosives handler's certificate, G. C. Stevenson, was working, and inspected the work. He was busy loading out a round to be shot going off shift. His work was neat and business-like, and everything was in order, no excess powder or caps, no apparent unsafe practices, etc. Gave the exam to him and Bud C. Stillian that evening in Haines. Stevenson is an old hand and apparently a good man.

That afternoon, I also visited Ross Hevel, U.S. Commissioner, who agreed very gladly to send in copies of the actual location certificates and affidavits like we have been trying to tell him to do by letter. He acted most gracious and cooperative about the matter.

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On the morning of April 20, the plane was late getting off to Juneau, so I had time to give an explosives handler's exam to Dan M. Taylor who had wanted to take it the night before but couldn't. He is in a supervisory capacity on the Ramstad job, and during the course of the conversation while the exam was in progress, he mentioned that they had had an accidental explosion last winter in a warm-up shack on the job. It seems they were keeping powder and caps in this shack and it caught fire. Fortunately no one was near when it blew. Taylor mentioned further that the powder man previous to Stevenson had been fired for general worthlessness. I did not pursue the matter further, thinking the man had been a short-timer and probably just up from the States without a certificate. However, on my return to Juneau I learn that the former discharged powder man had been writing to the TDL complaining about the new man (Stevenson) being hired without a permit and demanding something be done about it. The name of the complainant is Henry Reuss of Sutton and I find that he carries EH #48, having been passed the exam with a grade of 78, given by Wiley Robinson. Had I known these facts, I would have investigated the matter on the spot as to why he was fired and why he did not report the above warm-up shack violation or do something about it. Possibly this man's certificate should be suspended or cancelled. He states in his letters to the TDL that he was not powder man at the time the shack blew up. Copies of his correspondence are being made for our files.

Returned to Juneau shortly after noon, 20 April.

JAW:as

