

TERRITORY OF ALASKA  
DEPARTMENT OF MINES  
COLLEGE, ALASKA

19 October 1951

ITINERARY REPORT

TO: Leo H. Saarela, Commissioner of Mines, Juneau, Alaska

FROM: James A. Williams, Associate Mining Engineer, College, Alaska

SUBJECT: Itinerary of James A. Williams during the period of 11 September to 17 September 1951, in the ~~Manley~~ Hot Springs and Rampart Recording Precincts, and report on the mining activities in those precincts.

This trip was made to obtain first-hand information and statistics on the active mining operations in the above two precincts. Placer cards were filled out for the operations visited.

The mining activity in these districts is steadily diminishing, as it is in most of the Territory, because of the increasing prices and difficulties in obtaining equipment and dependable labor. In the ~~Manley~~ Hot Springs Precinct there was a total of eight active operations and twenty men engaged in the operations. This is a drop of two operations from 1950 and about 30% less men employed. The Rampart Precinct also shows 30% less men engaged and one operation less than in the previous season. It had a total of six operations and one prospector.

Prospecting is practically nil in the two precincts. The only prospector is Frank Reinosky who persists in searching for meteorite which he believes exists on upper Hunter Creek--a project of dubious value.

Tabulations of the operations in the two precincts are as follows:

~~Manley~~ Hot Springs Precinct

<u>Type of Operation</u>	<u>No. of Ouns.</u>	<u>No. of Men</u>
Dragline-Bulldozer-Hydraulic	1	8
Bulldozer-Hydraulic	5	9
Drift	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
Totals	8	20

# Rampart Precinct

<u>Type of Operation</u>	<u>No. of Cons.</u>	<u>No. of Men</u>
Dragline-Bulldozer-Hydraulic	1	7
Bulldozer-Hydraulic	1	3
Bulldozer	3	6
Drift	1	1
Prospecting	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
Totals	7	18

Detailed lists of the operations are on separate sheets included with this report.

The two precincts were somewhat short on water this year, but the season was not as dry as that of 1950. The Eureka district was the driest of the localities visited on this trip.

11 September: Enroute Fairbanks to Manley Hot Springs via Byers Airways in the morning. Was given a ride by L. McGee to his operation on Sullivan Creek and Tofty Gulch in the afternoon and inspected the outfit.

This operation, equipment, and ground was purchased by McGee from the Cleary Hill Mines, Inc. before the start of the season. McGee mined one cut on Sullivan Creek that Cleary Hill Mines had not finished and was stripping on Tofty Gulch downstream past the point (locally known as the "break off") where Cleary Hill Mines had quit because of insufficient drainage to reach bedrock. According to McGee, drill logs indicate good pay below the "break off", and he intends to install a pump next year for sublevel stripping and mining. He is spending considerable time and money in improving his ditches, even going so far as buying a 3/8-yard trench hoe specifically for ditch work. As a result of labor difficulties, he is giving serious thought to a simple method of mechanically or hydraulically operating his stripping giants, bypassing the Miscovich "Intelligiant" as too expensive and complicated. One of the problems on this property is that of cleaning the gold. Cyanide solution does not seem to function properly on the Sullivan Creek gold. Considerable placer tin is in this ground and is saved and sold from time to time.

12 September: Visited the Woodchopper Mining Company on Woodchopper Creek and Otto Hovely on Cache Creek, and returned to Manley Hot Springs.

The Woodchopper Mining Company (Al Berg and Clyde Larson) has a drift mine 167 feet deep on the Loraine Claim owned by Adolph Bock. They put down the shaft in the spring and have drifted out from it in three

directions. They have not been able to get anyone to help them, so they have not been able to properly mine by taking a whole face. The procedure has been to snipe out the richer pockets at random. They do not stack up a dump, but empty the bucket into the dump box on the sluice and when it is full (it holds four buckets) they pump water up to the boxes and sluice the gravel. This is repeated several times a day. Figures 1 and 2 show the sluicing setup and the hoist house and shaft collar. The ground is apparently comparatively rich, but it

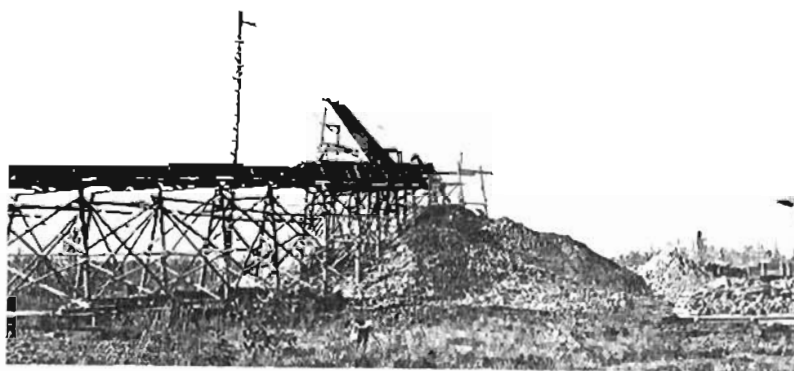


Figure 1. Woodchopper sluicing setup.



Figure 2. Woodchopper shaft and hoist house.

cannot be mined at a reasonable profit under the present system and conditions. The men were quite discouraged and not sure whether or not they would operate next year, but they were determined to stay with it as long as possible. There is a high percentage of tin in the paystreak here also, and it helps make the operation a little more interesting. The mine is  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the end of the Manley Hot Springs road and would be benefitted considerably if the road was extended so that the property would be accessible by truck. Other properties might also be opened up on Woodchopper Creek if a road was put in, since there is much ground on the creek that has not been mined. A separate memorandum will be written on the subject.

Otto Hovely has been drift mining in a small way for many years on Cache Creek, but was in the act of moving off the property when visited. He had just sold out to Charles Proctor who was then taking over. The location where Hovely has been mining was finished and the whole setup must be moved and a new shaft sunk. Proctor has a three-inch spring-pole drill that he intends to prospect with this winter in an effort to find the most favorable spot to sink the new shaft. 48-35

Tom Dean, who has also mined in the Tofty area for many years, was not active this year and will not be active in the future for the reason of his advanced age.

Jere Doyle was reported also not mining this year.

Oscar Enstrom and P. A. McDougal were mining on American Creek this past season. They made news in the local papers when they picked up a \$600 nugget. 48-5  
48-21

13 September: Obtained transportation to the Eureka district on a Road Commission truck. Visited the operations of Shimrock and Lawler on Shirley Bar and A. W. Pringle on Rhode Island Creek. Was picked up at the Eureka flight strip by Byers Airways in the afternoon and was flown back to Manley Hot Springs and then over to Rampart.

Mike Shimrock and Ed Lawler were mining bench ground above the left limit of Glen Creek. The ground is known as Shirley Bar. They have two associations, presently mining the Gold Mine in the Sky Association. The ground is shallow and the bedrock is easy to mine, but water is a serious problem. They use a pump and return it, and since there is practically no inflow of fresh water, the water is very muddy. However, the partners claim that there is no appreciable gold loss because of the dirty water. For a large part of the season they were unable to mine at all for lack of water. A D-8 dozer is used for pushing the gravel to the boxes, then as it is piped into the boxes with a five-inch nozzle at low pressure, the dozer stacks the tailings. The Hungarian riffles used by Shimrock and Lawler were somewhat larger than the ordinary, but were reported to very efficient gold savers. They were made of 2x4's on edge and capped with rubber. The ground was apparently rather poor and future plans were indefinite. Figure 3 is a photograph of the Shimrock and Lawler operation. 48-28



Figure 3. Mining operation on Shirley Bar.

Archie W. Pringle was mining on Rhode Island Creek at its confluence with Seattle Creek. He has been on this creek since 1933 and has ground for five or six seasons yet. He uses several nozzles, piping the gravel into the boxes and stacking with a dozer. The operation was limited to about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours of sluicing per day for a large part of the season because of the water shortage. The ground runs from very shallow to quite deep, and in places where the muck meets the bedrock it is quite likely to be richer than elsewhere. The bedrock is a dark to black combination of schist and slate which crumbles easily. 45-39

Pete Johnson was mining on Lower Rhode Island Creek Bench during the season, but had closed down prior to the writer's visit.

Tony Lanning had also closed his operation on Omega Creek down a few days earlier. He moved there from Thanksgiving Creek at the start of the season. 48-16

Hans Norheim and Associates did not mine this year.

Grace Lowe acquired some ground on Eureka Creek and personally performed the assessment work on it.

14 September: Visited the Swanson Brothers' operation on Hunter Creek.

Emil and Albert Swanson were mining on lower Hunter Creek as usual. They had one man working for them this year, but because of the extreme difficulty of obtaining dependable help, they are planning to work without any help in the future. They have a sluiceplate 48-43

operation with two D-7 dozers pushing in and stacking. Trouble was experienced during the season with breaking main springs on the dozers; one broke on each machine. In the last cut taken out, the gravel was about six feet deep and the bedrock was tough greenstone interspersed with brown chert. The operation appears profitable, and since the men own twenty claims, they will probably be there for many seasons. This season they mined six cuts totalling about 80,000 bedrock feet. After two more cuts, they are planning on starting in on a bench just above them on the left limit where they believe the pay will be good.

The Hunter Creek Mining Company had been mining earlier on Hunter Creek above the Swansons', but were shut down on the date of the visit.

F. J. Reinosky was reported to be still hunting for a meteorite on upper Hunter Creek. He has been working on this project for a considerable number of years.

Frank Dinan did some more drifting on Florida Creek early in the year. <sup>48-14</sup> His former partner, Ernie Dexel, was not with him.

The Ruby Creek Mining Company did not work this year, and Cecil Wells did no work on Hoosier or Big Minook Creeks.

A man by the name of Harry Havilock (spelling uncertain, but locally known as the "Hollywood Kid") was reported as doing some mining earlier in the season on Gunnison Creek with an old gasoline tractor. It was also reported that Havilock was to be the new U. S. Commissioner at Rampart, replacing Mrs. Harwood.

15 September: Visited operations of Pierce and Cravey on Hoosier Creek and Little Minook Mining Company on Little Minook Creek.

Jim Pierce and Charles Cravey were mining Harvey Thyman's ground on Hoosier Creek. They had an unusual sluiceplate arrangement. The sluiceplate was wedge-shaped and had six-foot-high vertical wing walls welded to it so that plate and wing walls were one unit. When set up with the boxes, it has the same appearance as the old standard wing-wall setup for hydraulic operations, except that the walls are at a smaller angle with each other. Both the gravel and the water, of course, have to be introduced on to the plate from the same direction--directly upstream. Figures 4 and 5 are a picture of the sluiceplate from upstream and a view of the complete sluicing equipment from the side. Only the two partners work, one driving the D-7 dozer, stacking and pushing in, while the other tends the boxes. They had only mined one cut when visited, having moved over from Gunnison Creek late in the season, but they intended to try to take out another cut before they had to shut down. Bedrock is a problem there. It is a tough blocky rock, and they were unable to mine as

much as they should, thereby losing considerable pay.



Figure 4. Sluiceplate with wingwalls.

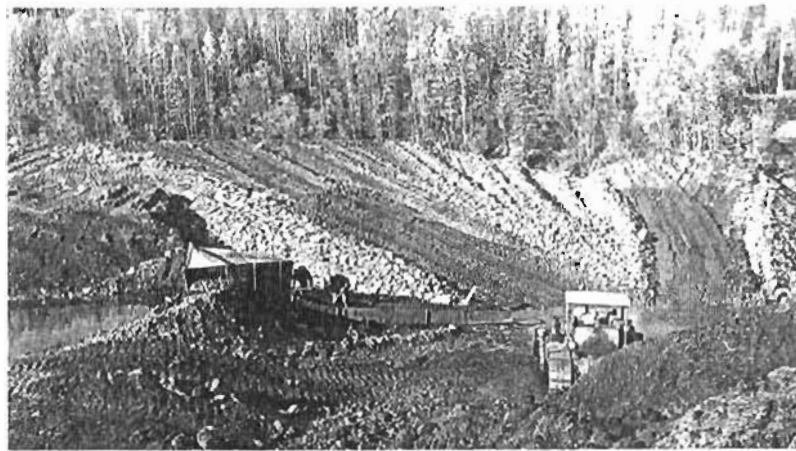


Figure 5. Pierce and Cravey sluicing setup.

The Little Minook Mining Company employed a crew of five this year and mined 100,000 bedrock feet. The ground is up to fifty feet deep and the valley is very narrow with steep sides so that overburden removal and tailings stacking are a constant problem. Figure 6 is a photograph taken of ground already worked on the creek, showing the steep sides of the valley and the height to which the tailings must be stacked to maintain drainage. A paystreak 100 feet wide is mined, and the operation works up the creek 1000' to 1200' each season. The upper part of the creek is worked out, but the lower

44-29



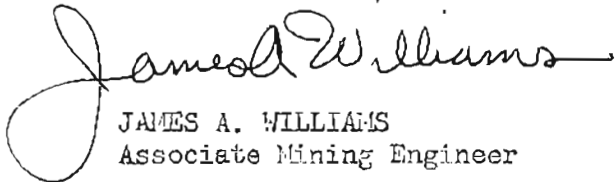
Figure 6. Worked-out ground on Little Minook Creek.

part has ground for several years yet. The gold is very hard to clean as it has a brown material sticking to it that appears to be a result of recementing. According to Martin, the one partner who works on the ground, the most effective way of cleaning the gold is with a hammer to break the stuff loose. Copper and galena show up in the concentrate.

16 September: At Rampart awaiting transportation.

17 September: Returned to Fairbanks in the morning via Byers Airways.

Respectfully submitted,

  
JAMES A. WILLIAMS  
Associate Mining Engineer



MINING OPERATIONS FOURTH DIVISION

~~MANLEY~~ HOT SPRINGS PRECINCT

1951

<u>Name and Address of Operator</u>	<u>Name and Location of Mine</u>	<u>Type of Operation</u>	<u>Crew</u>
Enstrom, Oscar and McDougal, Fairbanks	American Creek	Bulldozer-Hydraulic	2
Hovely, Otto, Manley Hot Springs	Cache Creek	Drift	1
Johnson, Pete, Manley Hot Springs	Lower Rhode Island Creek Bench	Bulldozer-Hydraulic	2
Lanning, Tony, Manley Hot Springs	Omega Creek	Bulldozer-Hydraulic	1
McGee, L., Manley Hot Springs	Sullivan Creek and Tofty Gulch	Dragline-Bulldozer- Hydraulic	8
Pringle, A. W., Manley Hot Springs	Rhode Island and Seattle Creeks	Bulldozer-Hydraulic	2
Shimrock, Mike and Lawler, Ed, Manley Hot Springs	Shirley Bar	Bulldozer-Hydraulic	2
Woodchopper Mining Co., Tofty	Woodchopper Creek	Drift	2

MINING OPERATIONS FOURTH DIVISION

RAMPART PRECINCT

1951

<u>Name and Address of Operator</u>	<u>Name and Location of Mine</u>	<u>Type of Operation</u>	<u>Crew</u>
Dinan, Frank, Rampart	Florida Creek	Drift	1
Havilock, Harry, Rampart	Gunnison Creek	Bulldozer	1
Hunter Creek Mining Co., Rampart	Hunter Creek	Bulldozer-Hydraulic	3
Little Minook Mining Co., Fairbanks	Little Minook Creek	Dragline-Bulldozer- Hydraulic	7
Pierce, James and Cravey, Charles, Rampart	Hoosier Creek	Bulldozer	2
Reinosky, F. J., Rampart	Upper Hunter Creek	Prospecting	1
Swanson Bro's., Emil and Albert, Rampart	Hunter Creek	Bulldozer	3