

TERRITORY OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF MINES
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

MR 85-7
DEPARTMENT OF MINES
RECEIVED
JUL 15 1946
JUNEAU, ALASKA

July 11, 1946

Mr. B. D. Stewart
Commissioner of Mines
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Mr. Stewart:

Enclosed is a short report on the Potter Limestone together with the TR issued for transportation to and from Potter. *Encl 4*

I was surely disappointed in not being able to get more information than I did. The appearance of the countryside there from the air and the train is very deceiving. Actual inspection of the area proves that considerable time would have to be spent in going around neighborhood, and a difficult time will be had even at that because of the thick underbrush, and profusion of devil clubs, as well as the soggy and swampy underfooting.

After an exhausting seven hours of pushing thru the brush, I have not much more than a general idea of the layout of the outcrop in relation to the railroad and the mountain slope to the east.

The area to the west of the claim and extending to Turnagain Arm is an extensive local tidal flat about one mile wide and 3 miles long (north to south) across which the railroad has a filled in road bed. The road bed has caused swamp vegetation to grow and increase the water held in place east of the railroad. Only at extreme high tide does the Turnagain Arm water cover this portion of the flat. Numerous areas of white powder cover the drier parts of the flat after it has been out of water for awhile. This might indicate that the run-off water from the bench has a higher amount of calcium in solution than is to be found elsewhere.

In any event, considerable prospecting will be necessary before any appreciable amount of information can be obtained and which will be necessary to plan a program of exploitation of the deposit.

Potter section hands claim that there have been several prospectors in the past who have sought gold at different points above the claim on the bench, and further back from the railroad. Two men on the section gang said that they had visited several small adits and trenches earlier in the spring when the snow was beginning to melt. One of the men said that the adits were in rock similar to that to the south of Potter (greenstone), and some were in rock similar to that around Portage Junction (slate and greywacke). These men claim to have heard that wire silver had been found in quartz stringers in one place.

*Edited copy letter +
report sent to Bob Bellows 5/18/48*

Mr. B. D. Stewart

-2-

July 11, 1946

As this area is just over the hill from the Birdwood district, it may well be that the mineralization may be continued west to some extent. This may make it worth while to investigate at some future time.

Some days ago, A. B. Smith came in to tell us the situation in regards to the property that he and Clyde Glass, Silas Punker (recently deceased), and A. C. Crown optioned from Conn and John Carlson on Valdez Creek. This group paid down some unstated amount, and are to complete payment in about 5 years. They have formed the "Interior Mining, Drilling & Developing Co., capital - \$100,000, par value \$100 per share. About 65% of the stock has been sold and is held by the 4 organizers. About 9 miles of claims are held on Valdez Creek. At present, A. C. Crown is in charge of the test drilling of 12 holes, and the later drilling of about 12 more holes. According to Smith, an order has been placed for a Huber dredge, 500 tons, with 5 foot buckets and able to dig 110 feet. They expect to dig at about 50 feet. Gravel is running about 90¢ a yard. It is hoped that they will be in operation by next summer if all goes well.

Clark E. Smith who has several claims west of the Kahiltna River and intends to go in and locate more this summer, was in looking for maps of that section. None are available so he will still have to rely on his ancient Kroll map.

John Haynes and Carl Thomas, Box 877, Seward brought in four samples of rock and quartz for assaying from a claim which they had located on First Street in Seward, at the base of Mount Marathon. The samples have not been run yet so the results are not known both men say that free gold is easily to be seen in hand specimens and that panning indicates it easily. They have sunk a ten foot shaft. It seems that the surface has been homesteaded by Senator Browell, or rather he owns it and questions their right to mine. They do not know of their rights, and offered to make an agreement with him. On his insistence on a 25% royalty, which they refused to give, they came in to Anchorage to get advice from John Hellenenthal. He told them this morning that there are three other older claims neighboring their claims and that the mineral rights were not included in the homestead patent.

Numerous inquiries are being made here daily but nothing concrete seems to be coming of them. It seems to be more of a kind of interest rather than a desire to get out and prospect. Many admit that they will have to save a stake before attempting to go out.

Nothing further has developed about getting us out of the office other than the return of Raymor Brown from the states, and his stop at Juneau to talk with you about it. Curbstone rumor has it that we are out and that it only remains as a point of where we are to go. Everyone fears Mrs. Hoppin for some reason or other, or they give that impression.

Hope that you can make your visit soon as planned as I am truly anxious to see you and talk to you. Nothing urgent of course.

This seems to be all for the present, so with regards

dy - 7 Sincerely, Harry L. Friedman

TERRITORY OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF MINES
ASSAY OFFICE

Anchorage, Alaska, July 16, 1946

REPORT OF ASSAY

On samples received from Mr. H. L. Fiedler--Dept. of Mines

Address Anchorage, Alaska

Assay No.	Mark on Sample Owner's Description	OUNCES PER TON		Value Per Ton	PERCENTAGE OF															
		Gold	Silver																	
3671	GRAB SAMPLE OF 4 PLACES ACROSS OUTCROP (POTER)			Ignition Loss	<table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td>CaO</td> <td>53.7</td> <td>%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SiO₂</td> <td>4.2</td> <td>%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Al₂O₃</td> <td>.25</td> <td>%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ignition Loss</td> <td>42.1</td> <td>%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MgO</td> <td>—</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	CaO	53.7	%	SiO ₂	4.2	%	Al ₂ O ₃	.25	%	Ignition Loss	42.1	%	MgO	—	
CaO	53.7	%																		
SiO ₂	4.2	%																		
Al ₂ O ₃	.25	%																		
Ignition Loss	42.1	%																		
MgO	—																			

*Recd from -
Fiedler
20 July 1946*

L. G. Dahmer
ASSAYER.

Mr. Anderson

TERRITORY OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF MINES
JUNEAU, ALASKA

POTTER LIMESTONE

- KX 85-113
Anchorage, Alaska
July 11, 1946
By H. L. Fiedler
Associate Mining Engineer

An outcropping of limestone is located at a point approximately east of mile 102.8 on the Alaska railroad, and about three miles northerly of the Potter Station. Access to the property is by means of a rough road and trail from the railroad at mile 103.5. A lone farm or homestead? is located about one-half mile from the railroad on the trail. The limestone outcrop is about two miles from the railroad by trail, or about one-half mile across an almost impassable tidal flat from the railroad at mile 102.8.

The limestone has been known for many years, and probably prior to 1915. It was located April 10, 1917 by Clarence R. and S. F. Rhodes. Mineral Survey was made August 24-26, 1923, and patent issued April 1, 1924. The area included in the claim (The White Rock Placer Claim) is 18.193 acres.

The limestone outcrops at the edge of gravel which appears to be a terrace along the shore of Turnagain Arm and on the western slope of foothills of the Chugach Mountains. The general elevation of the terrace or bench immediately to the east and north of the limestone does not exceed 150 feet. Only two small outcrops, greenstone according to Tuck, highly oxidized were noted to the west of the limestone, and none to the west, at least for a distance of one-half mile in each direction. The bench appears to be unbroken by outcrops although it is difficult to be certain because of the thick underbrush which covers the area. The limestone outcrop contacts a highly weathered and eroded rock which Tuck says is a greenstone, and the outcrop of lime is split by an insertion of this same highly weathered greenstone. It is fractured although a common strike and dip could not be determined for the whole. The weathered greenstone contact with the western portion of the limestone shows gouge material about 3 inches thick, and appears to be mainly an iron mineral probably limonite.

Hand specimens of the limestone show thin veinlets of calcite and massively crystalline structure. Quartz seems to be more in evidence in the mass on the west side of the outcrop than on the east side. The color is a blue gray, and along fractures are stains of iron received probably from the weathered greenstone adjoining.

Although no copy of USGS Bulletin 729b is available, a reference in office notes is made that this bulletin touches on the Potter outcrop.

Potter Limestone, continued

It is said that an unknown amount of limestone from this locality was burned and used by earlier day homesteaders as a satisfactory soil fertilizer, and also used as an ingredient in the plaster used in the original high school building at Anchorage.

Very little work has been done on the claim or the one outcrop of limestone except for the mining of the small quantity burned years ago. Because of the interest in limestone as a source for possible industrial uses in this section, a program of exploration should be encouraged. Such a program should include trenching, test drilling, and a competent inspection of the surface for geological details. Due to the heavy brush and local swampy conditions, the utmost difficulties will be found to hinder this work in any reasonable short time.

The fact that the claim is now patented, the surrounding area has been withdrawn by the federal government as a power site, and for use as a part of the Fort Richardson Military Reserve has tended to cool any enthusiasm for investigation of this section at Potter and exploitation of its resources.

TERRITORY OF ALASKA
Department of Mines
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

7102 85-7
7/23/48 - indexed

POTTER LIMESTONE.

An outcropping of limestone is located at a point approximately east of mile 102.8 on the Alaska railroad, and about three miles northerly of the Potter Station. Access to the property is by means of a rough road and trail from the railroad at mile 103.5. A lone farm or homestead is located about one-half mile from the railroad on the trail. The limestone outcrop is about two miles from the railroad by trail, or about one-half mile across an almost impassable tidal flat from the railroad at mile 102.8.

The limestone has been known for many years, and probably prior to 1915. It was located April 10, 1917 by Clarence R. and S. F. Rhodes. Mineral Survey was made August 24-26, 1923, and patent issued April 1, 1924. The area included in the claim (The White Rock Placer Claim) is 18.193 acres.

The limestone outcrops at the edge of gravel which appears to be a terrace along the shore of Turnagain Arm and on the western slope of foothills of the Chugach Mountains. The general elevation of the terrace or bench immediately to the east and north of the limestone does not exceed 150 feet. Only two small outcrops, greenstones according to Tuck, highly oxidized were noted to the west of the limestone, and none to the west, at least for a distance of one-half mile in each direction. The bench appears to be unbroken by outcrops although it is difficult to be certain because of the thick underbrush which covers the area. The limestone outcrop contacts a highly weathered and eroded rock which Tuck says is a greenstone, and the outcrop of lime is split by an insertion of this same highly weathered greenstone. It is fractured altho a common strike and dip could not be determined for the whole. The weathered greenstone contact with the western portion of the limestone shows gouge material about 3 inches thick, and appears to be mainly an iron mineral probably limonite.

Hand specimens of the limestone show thin veinlets of calcite and massively crystalline structure. Quartz seems to be more in evidence in the mass on the west side of the outcrop than on the east side. The color is a blue gray, and along fractures are stains of iron received probably from the weathered greestone adjoining.

Altho no copy of USGS Bulletin 792b is available, a reference in office notes is made that this bulletin touches on the Potter outcrop.

It is said that an unknown amount of limestone from this locality was burned and used by earlier day homesteaders as a satisfactory soil fertilizer, and also used as an ingredient in the plaster used in the original high school building at Anchorage.

Very little work has been done on the claim or the one outcrop of limestone except for the mining of the small quantity burned years ago. Because of the interest in limestone as a source for possible industrial uses in this section, a program of exploration should be encouraged. Such a program

Potter Limestone.

-2-

should include trenching, test drilling, and a competent inspection of the surface for geological details. Due to the heavy brush and local swampy conditions, the utmost difficulties will be found to hinder this work in any reasonable short time.

The fact that the claim is now patented, the surrounding area has been withdrawn by the federal government as a power site, and for use as a part of the Fort Richardson Military Reserve has tended to cool any enthusiasm for investigation of this section at Potter and exploitation of its resources.

Anchorage, Alaska
July 11, 1946

By- *H. L. Fiedler*
Harry L. Fiedler,
Associate Mining Engineer