

GOLD PLACERS OF THE LOWER KUSKOKWIM,  
WITH A NOTE ON COPPER IN THE RUSSIAN MOUNTAINS.

By. A. G. Maddren  
-0-0-

Fisher Creek

p. 346

Fisher Creek is a stream about 9 miles in length, of good volume, that discharges into Salmon River from the southwest about 5 miles above the mouth of Eagle Creek. Its chief headwaters drain the eastern slopes of Fisher Dome, a mountain mass about 4,000 feet in altitude. From this mountain the upper half of Fisher Creek flows southeastward; it then makes a right-angle turn to the left, so that the lower half of its course flows northeastward into the Salmon.

The basin of this stream is eroded from the same series of interbedded sandstone and shale country rocks that occupy the valley of Marvel Creek to the north. In the high mountainous ridge that borders the upper half of the Fisher Creek valley on the northeast a few outcrops of granitic dike rocks cut the sedimentary series. Intrusive rocks of the same kind are reported to occur in more massive form in Fisher Dome, at the source of the creek. Prospectors consider that the conditions of intrusion and mineralization in Fisher Dome are similar to those in Marvel Dome.

The men who discovered gold on Marvel Creek state that they obtained fair prospects of fine gold in the gravel bars at the mouth of Fisher Creek before they found coarse gold on Marvel Creek. After staking Marvel Creek they also located placer claims along the course of Fisher Creek, but no prospecting of consequence was done on the latter stream until the winter of 1913-14. At that time a cabin was built at the bend of the creek, about 4 miles above its mouth, and about half a dozen holes were sunk to bedrock in the vicinity of the cabin. These holes, which ranged in depth from 15 to 30 feet, penetrated frozen deposits of silt and gravel. No prospects of gold were found of sufficient worth to encourage further developments. Apparently the upper part of the creek near Fisher Dome, where the intrusive rocks and associated evidences of mineralization are reported to be more abundantly developed, has not been prospected up to the present time.

(Bulletin No. 622, U.S.G.S. "Mineral Resources of Alaska  
Report on Progress of Investigations in 1914.")

Excerpt from  
Summary Report of Mining Investigations in  
Aniak-Tuluksak, Goodnews Bay and Kuskokwim  
Mining Districts

To B. D. Stewart, Commissioner of Mines,  
July 1 to August 10, 1939  
By J. C. Roehm, Associate Mining Engineer.

" July 13-21, 1939. The writer, on reports of new stakings and discoveries on Salmon and Kopechuck rivers and other creeks, made a trip on foot to the heads of these rivers. J. Cook of Anchorage has four 160-acre association claims and 17 single claims staked on Fisher Creek (referred to in Bull. 622, p. 346) and nine 160-acre association claims on Salmon River below Cripple. R. Bragaw and M. Skriben of Anchorage are financing Cook in this venture.

Below the mouth of Cripple, Salmon River has a valley ranging from 2,000 to 3,000 feet in width. The river is entrenched in argillite bedrock to a depth of 30 to 40 feet and an entrenchment width from 100 to 150 feet. This entrenchment contains shallow bars and the gravels in the river itself are shallow. The river cuts the closely folded argillites at nearly right angle. These sediments are locally mineralized and contain small diabase dikes parallel to the strike. On the entrenchment benches and the main valley floor, a coarse wash gravel is exposed ranging in depths from 6 to 9 feet. The bedrock on these rims pan considerable fine flaky gold. This fine gold with occasional coarse heavy pieces was found extending from the mouth of Cripple to two miles below the mouth of Fisher Creek. Salmon River valley appears not to have been actively glaciated, but does contain outwash plain gravels. These gravels are from the extensively glaciated action on upper Cripple. The rough hard argillite bedrock acted as natural riffles for the fine flat gold during the melting run-off period and the beginning of the entrenchment. This run-off period deposited the heavy wash in the river valley. It is possible that certain sections of this main valley floor may contain workable pay.

However, it will require careful testing and the problems of light gold and rough bedrock have to be considered.

The writer examined the headwaters of Fisher Creek which heads on the east side of Fisher Dome. Three mountains with granite cores occur in this vicinity. A soft yellow quartz porphyry was found along the contact of the granite and sediments of slate, graywacke and hardened argillites. This porphyry occurs as a marginal phase of the intrusive cores and also extends in dike form into the sediments. It is mineralized with pyrite and arsenopyrite and numerous quartz stringers mineralized with the same minerals were noted. Geologically, this creek should be favorable for placer. Fisher Creek has a length of 9 miles. Its valley width ranges from 400 to 600 feet and runs on the valley floor except for one mile up from its mouth where it is entrenched in bedrock. The creek falls 600 feet in 8 miles from its main head tributaries to its mouth on Salmon. Further testing of the creek is warranted."