

File Case

418 136 Avenue East
Sumner, Wa. 98390
December 8, 1980

Alaska Div. of Geological & Geophysical Survey
P.O. Box 80007
V.A. Physical Plant Building
College, Alaska 99708

Re: Bu. of Interior-
Kardex # 46 & 206,
95-46; 95-206
(Seward Quadrangle)

Dear Sir:

The United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Mines, P.O. Box 550, Juneau, Alaska, 99802, referred me to your Department about an old mine in Alaska. Subject is to find out whether the mine was sold, or considered abandoned or restaked, and what mining companies or individuals now hold claims. The Bureau of Land Management print out on recorded Claims dated 10-9-80 I have in my possession. I understand that Anderson-Yannes are the last owners.

I was wondering if the last party would want some history about the mine. I have the filed Statutory Statement No. 483, dated May 9, 1949 that was filed by the Metalliferous Mining Company. The names of the bays and channels have been changed. I have an old U.S. Coast Pilot book of Alaska dated 1943, on the map it shows Thomas Bay. The Bureau of Mines told me to send some history about Thomas Bay to your Department.

Enclosed you will find history on the above mine.

Encl:

Very sincerely,

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DIV. OF GEOL. SURVEY

John O. Larson
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418 136 Ave. East
Sumner, Wa., 98390

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"THE QUESTION MARK MINE."

In 1950 while I was working as an Animal Keeper at Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle I became acquainted with a man whose name was Don Thomas. His Brother Nate worked at the Seattle Hardware Store. The two brothers inherited a mine from their father and the mine was in Southern Alaska. To reach the mine was through Thomas Inlet which was named after their father. They went in by boat and then they had to pack in to the mine. The U. S. Mail boat came and went once a week. Don Thomas used to go up to Alaska every summer to put his \$100.00 worth of labor and improvements on it. according to the Government or else he would lose it.

Everytime Thomas would go up and come back, he brought back quartz rock in his trunk and suit cases. One time he sold \$200.00 worth of gold bearing quartz at the Tacoma Smelting Works. Don showed me the invoices of the sale. He made the trip regularly once a year. One time my wife, Alice and I visited the Thomas home in West Seattle and they had quartz rocks using them for door stops and table lamps.

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In some of the rock you could see gold glitters in them. At that time Don Thomas wanted Alice and I to go up there with him and open and run a merchandise store at the mine as he wanted to start a settlement there. My wife and I declined the offer as we never had any experience in store keeping.

About the second year after knowing Thomas he came back to Seattle and looked me up. He wanted me to go around to the Sporting Goods dealers with him to buy a heavy powered rifle. That summer a Sow Brownie Bear just about got him. This large Brown Bear came into his camp and came straight for Don. Don had a 30-06 rifle and kept firing bullets into the bear and the bear just kept coming for him. Finally the bear dropped dead right at his feet. That was just too "damn close." Thomas skinned the bear out and found some of the bullets went right through the bear's heart. So Thomas wanted a heavier gun that would knock the bear down right now and not get up. That is why we were looking for a high powered rifle. We never found any rifles to suit Don till we went into the Bon Marche' Sporting Goods Department in Seattle. They never had anything, but the clerk said he had a friend in Portland that had a second hand Elephant gun for sale for \$200.00. So, Thomas told the clerk to telephone the man and the deal was made. I don't see how the man could shoot it. The kick must have been terrific.

THE QUESTION MARK MINE

Some time later Thomas wanted to form a Gold Mine Company. Don would be President, his brother Nate Vice President, and my wife's Aunt Dagny Berg would be Secretary and Treasurer. Dagny Berg had twenty shares of stock in the company but the company was never legally formed. The Tacoma Smeltering Company offered Thomas \$100,000.00 for one half interest for the mine. But Thomas was stubborn and wanted 51%. The 1% over would give him controlling interest of the mine and he would be the main boss. Everybody concerned tried to get him to sell, but he would not do it. At that time Don was in his middle sixties; that would have lasted him in good shape the rest of his life.

Then Thomas drifted away from around here. He went down into Oregon. The years have gone by and nothing has come of the mine as far as I know. Now both the Thomas brothers are dead. I suppose the mine has gone back to the Government and probably has growed up with brush and weeds.

I am too old myself to go up to Alaska and don't have the means, but I often wondered what became of the Thomas Mine on Thomas Inlet in Alaska. I made up the title for the mine. Whether the mine is still there or not."

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