Territory of Alaska
Department of Mines

P. O. Box 1391
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COAL NEWS

Alaskan coal production for the month of November 1957 totalled 83,905 tons. The breakdown per mine was as follows:

Arctic Coal, Healy Field (Lignite Creek).....	9,350 tons
Cripple Creek, Healy Field.....	9,000 "
Suntrana Mine, Healy Field.....	21,000 "
Usibelli Mine, Healy Field.....	22,000 "
Jonesville Mine, Matanuska Field.....	17,017 "
Mrak Mine, Matanuska Field.....	5,538 "

This compares favorably with Washington State production which totalled 35,389 tons for the month of October 1957.

OIL NEWS

Colorado Oil and Gas Corp. is fishing for stuck drill collars after drilling to 9,777 feet in their second hole near Yakutat.

Richfield Oil Corp. was drilling at 8,680 feet in its second hole on the Kenai Peninsula at last report.

Humble and Shell are below the 5,800 foot depth on their Bear Creek Unit Well No. 1 northeast of Wide Bay on the Alaska Peninsula.

Standard Oil has two seismic crews and one gravity crew working in the Ninilchik area of the Kenai Peninsula.

The latest Alaska Scouting Service report lists a number of leases that have been relinquished for failure to pay the 4th year rental. This is most interesting in the face of the big rush of filing that has been going on since the Richfield strike last July.

Anchorage Gas and Oil Corp. are reported to have negotiated a cooperative agreement with Union and Ohio Oil for the development of a large block of its acreage north of Anchorage.

Please see the notice on the pink page if you desire to remain on the TDM Bulletin mailing list. Our best wishes to all of you for a successful 1958.

E. AND M. J. METAL MARKET PRICES

	Dec. 26, 1957	Month Ago	Year Ago
Copper, per lb.	26.6¢	26.5¢	35.7¢
Lead, per lb.	13¢	13-1/2¢	16¢
Zinc, per lb.	10¢	10¢	13-1/2¢
Tin, per lb.	89.1¢	89.1¢	102-3/4¢
Quicksilver, per flask	$225-230	$225-230	$255-257
Silver, foreign, New York	89.6¢	90.4¢	91-3/8¢
Silver, domestic, per oz.	90.5¢	90.5¢	90.5¢
Nickel, per lb.	74¢	74¢	74¢
Molybdenum, per lb., in con.	$1.18	$1.18	$1.18
Platinum, per oz.	$76-80	$81-87	$103-108
Titanium ore (Ilmenite) per ton	$26.25-30.00	$26.25-30.00	$26.25-30.00
*Tungsten ore, per unit	$55.00	$55.00	$55.00
**Chrome ore (48%, 3 to 1 ratio) per ton	$115.00	$115.00	$115.00

*GSA tungsten purchasing presently suspended.

**GSA guaranteed stockpile price. Not quoted by E. & M. J.

NOTICE — Pink Slip No. 2

The time has again arrived when we must call for "pink slips" from our readers. This will allow us to drop those from our mailing list who are no longer interested in receiving this publication, and will reduce the number of Bulletins being returned to us from incorrect addresses. If you wish to continue receiving the TDM Bulletin, please tear this notice off at the above line, fill in the spaces below with your name and correct mailing address, and mail it to us at Box 1391, Juneau, Alaska. If we do not hear from you within 60 days, your name will be removed from the mailing list.

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east-west line through Mt. Lydonia and east of a NW-SE line from Hirst Mountain to Rapids Point in Peril Strait, and including Herbert Graves, Myriad, Klokachef and adjacent small islands. Publication will start in Sitka Sentinel on January 8, 1958

NEW PROSPECTING EQUIPMENT

Sharpe Instruments Limited is advertising a new lightweight magnetometer, Model A-3, which weighs approximately six pounds. They claim it can be used in planes, cars, boats, or carried by hand like a Geiger counter. It is reportedly self-levelling and self-orienting. The Sharpe address is 6080 Yonge Street, Willowdale, Ontario, Canada.

Television can now be used to examine the walls of boreholes down to 1,000 feet deep. Engineers in Germany have devised a probe containing a tiny television camera with lights and mirrors that can be lowered into drill holes of 2.5-inch diameter - even if filled with water - so that geological details can be observed on a screen at the surface.

A patent has been issued for a new model gold pan. It has a flatter angle to the sides and a screen is fastened to the bottom for trapping the values. The sides have an angle of 18 to 26 degrees with the bottom instead of the usual 40 to 45 degrees. The inventor says the low angle permits better gravity separation during manipulation of the pan. The screen is circular with a metallic rim and is fastened to the bottom of the pan by clamps and wing nuts. Matting may be placed under the screen if it is so desired. The mesh size of the screen is not given. It is said that recovery of fine and flake gold is improved with this pan.

A promising-looking auger drill is being made by General Equipment Co., Box 134, Owatonna, Minnesota. Built for ice fishermen to bore 7-inch holes through the ice with, it can be adapted with different bits to bore earth and other soft material. Under certain conditions, it could be used for quickly penetrating overburden to a depth of three feet or so, and in some cases could be used for sampling purposes, as perhaps with surface coal. It is powered with a 2-1/2 HP 2-cycle air-cooled Clinton engine, weighs 29 pounds without the bit, and retails for $149.95.

The University of Alaska School of Mines has published a new booklet on geochemics called Geochemical Prospecting, Bulletin 3. It is a definite improvement over the last geochemical book, and it sells for $2.00. It covers methods for water sampling, soil sampling, rock, sediment, and vegetation sampling. There are instructions for preparation of reagents and interpretation of results, and a selected bibliography of other publications on geochemical prospecting. The booklet may be purchased from the School of Mines at College, Alaska.

GROWING COMPETITION FROM PLASTICS

Plastics are being used for more and more things that once required metals. This, of course, is not helping the metal markets, but even the mines themselves are helping the trend by using such items as plastic pipe in large quantities. The Naval Ordnance Laboratory has developed plastic cartridge cases that will stand the necessary heat and pressure. One standard brass cartridge case that weighs 5.9 pounds can now be replaced with a plastic case weighing 2.5 pounds, saving a lot of weight and cost. Use of nylon for gears, cams, mechanical parts and molding processes is getting to be old stuff, but something newer is a plastic nail which can be driven through plywood.