Territory of Alaska
Department of Mines

P. O. Box 1391
Juneau, Alaska

TDM BULLETIN

Vol. VI

May 1958

No. 5

MINING ACTIVITIES

FIRST DIVISION - Devamin Company, Inc. is the name of the company that will be deve ing the Yakobi Island nickel deposits this year. A helicopter is already on the wa to the scene of operations, and several drilling crews are planned.

SECOND DIVISION - We pulled a real boner last month in reporting the purchase of th Havenstrite placer operations near Candle. Jack Bullock of Kotzebue was the purcha er, not the Ringstad family. Our apologies.

THIRD DIVISION - The Maclaren River copper property is going ahead with development work under the direction of Mr. Harve Ashby, a mining engineer of long experience.

OIL NEWS

The Humble Oil Co. well in the Bear Creek Unit on the Alaska Peninsula is now below 10,656 feet. Humble recently announced that their exploration activities would be somewhat curtailed this year because of increasing costs.

The Standard and Richfield well at the Deep Creek Unit on the Kenai has passed the 8,418-foot mark.

Colorado Oil & Gas Corp. plans a third well in the Yakutat area for later in 1958.

The Department of the Interior announced the opening of the PLO 82 lands of the Arctic Slope for oil leasing except for the 2-mile so-called "buffer zone" around the Pet 4 area and the 5 million acres east of the Canning River which will be part of the 9,000,000 acre Arctic Wildlife Range withdrawal, if the withdrawal is enacted. Sixteen thousand acres of the released area are within the Gubic Gas Field structure and will be offered to competitive bidding only. The remainder of the land will be open to non-competitive leasing about June 1, 1958 and also to mineral entry under the mining laws after September 1, 1958.

One well-informed individual summed up the Alaskan oil leasing situation somewhat as follows (with two of our own figures substitutued for his): Of the 375,000,000 acres in Alaska, 110,000,000 have been classified as being geologically possible or favorabe for petroleum development. Of this 110,000,000 acres, about 24,000,000 are in Petroleum Reserve No. 4 and 2,000,000 are in the Kenai Moose Rang leaving a balance of some 84,000,000 acres for leasing and development. About 30,000,000 acres have already been leased or covered by offers to lease. This leav a balance of about 54,000,000 acres open. At the present filing rate, it appears t this balance will be at least half gone in another 12 months and probably all gone by 1960. A few more discovery wells will, of course, increase the filing rate. Fo those who want to get in on the show, it appears that the time is short.

MORE ON THE PROPOSED ARCTIC WILDLIFE WITHDRAWAL

As mentioned in our last bulletin, because no public hearing announcement seemed to be forthcoming, we suggested that the proposed Arctic Wildlife Range be set up with a provision for mining similar to that of Glacier Bay National Monument. This provision is to allow patents to mineral claims to convey title to mineral rig only, and not surface rights. In some quarters the above suggestion was taken to mean that we are now endorsing the withdrawal. We most certainly are not. It was merely a suggestion that if this withdrawal is inevitable, then give mining that muc of a break rather than the proposed leasing system. Actually, our suggestion has not found favor in the mining industry, who say that it would be another step toward hardrock leasing on public domain lands.

In view of the continued efforts to create a National Wilderness Preservation System (within which industrial development is discouraged or prohibited and which would include some 13 million acres of existing withdrawals in Alaska) we cannot support any effort to increase the area which would be managed under the restricted land-use-plan of a Wilderness System.

P. L. 167 AREAS FOR DETERMINATION OF SURFACE RIGHTS

Three more areas have been designated by the U.S. Forest Service for the determination of surface rights on mining claims under Public Law 167 of July 23, 19 These are in addition to many earlier areas within the Tongass and Chugach National Forests, all reported in earlier issues of the TDM Bulletin. Holders of claims stal prior to the date of the Act have 150 days from the starting date of publication to file verified statements if they wish to retain exclusive surface rights to their claims. Descriptions of the new areas follow:

Eagle River Area: In general, all the mainland west of the glaciers from Echo Cove in Berners Bay south to Lemon Creek, which is just north of Juneau.

Taku Inlet Area: In general, all lands bounded on the south by an east-west line through Pt. Bishop, on the east by a north-south line through Cooper Pt. and the Annex Creek power house, on the north by the south shores of Annex Lakes and the glaciers, and on the west by a line through the head of Granite Creek and Salisbury Point.

Northwest Chichagof Island Area: In general, all of Yakobi Island and th part of Chichagof Island bounded on the north and north east by a line fr Rock Pt. to the head of the pass separating Lisianski Inlet and Hoonah Sound, on the east by a line from the pass to Hirst Mt., and on the south by an east-west line from Hirst Mtn. to Portlock Harbor, and including adjacent smaller islands.

NEW AEROMAGNETIC MAPS

The U.S.G.S. has released some new aeromagnetic maps. One is entitled Geophysical Investigations GP Map 156, "Aeromagnetic map of the Copper River Basin, Alaska" by G. E. Andreasen and others. It is a total intensity map made as a result of a survey in 1954 and 1955. It covers the area from 61°45' to 63°00' N latitude

and from 145°00' to 147°20' W longitude. The map may be seen at the Juneau, Anchora, and College TDM offices, may be ordered for 75¢ from the U.S.G.S. at the Denver Federal Center, Denver 2, Colorado, or may be purchased over the counter from the U.S.G.S. in the Glover Building, Anchorage.

Three others are aeromagnetic maps of parts of the Ugashik and Karluk quadrangles (Kodiak area), of part of the Dillingham quadrangle, and of part of the Naknek quadrangle. These three maps are only in open file report form, but reproductions at private expense are available at the GS at 4 Homewood Place, Menlo Park, California. They may be seen at the Juneau TDM office and at the Alaska U.S.G.S. offices.

E. AND M. J. METAL MARKET PRICES

	Apr. 24, 1958	Month Ago	Year Ago
Copper, per lb.	24.3¢	24.6¢	31.5¢
Lead, per lb.	12¢	13¢	16¢
Zinc, per lb.	10¢	10¢	13-1/2¢
Tin, per lb.	93¢	93-1/2¢	100¢
Quicksilver, per flask	$230-235	$232-236	$255-257
Silver, foreign, New York	89.6¢	88.6¢	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.	$65-75	$69-75	$92-95
Titanium ore (Ilmenite) per ton	$26.25-30.00	$26.25-30.00	$26.25-30.0
Tungsten ore, per unit	$19.50-20.00	$1950-20.00	$55.00
*Chrome ore (48%, 3 to 1 ratio) per ton	$115.00	$115.00	$115.00

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

MINERAL PRODUCTION IN ALASKA, 1956-57 1/

Mineral	1956 Short tons (unless otherwise stated)	1956 Value	1957 Short tons (unless otherwise stated)	1957 Value
Antimony ore----------gross weight---	(2/)	(2/)	31	$5,600
Chromite----------do---------	7,193	$711,481	4,200	427,000
Coal, bituminous----------	726,801	6,373,976	842,338	7,292,279
Gold (recoverable content of ores, etc.) troy ounces	209,296	7,325,360	215,734	7,540,000
Lead (recoverable content of ores, etc.)------	1	314	1	268
Mercury----------76-pound flasks	3,280	852,539	5,300	1,309,100
Sand and gravel----------	5,955,105	5,879,799	6,027,000	8,708,259
Silver (recoverable content of ores, etc.) troy ounces	28,360	25,667	26,000	23,500
Stone----------	194,864	594,894	527,487	1,946,608
Value of items that cannot be disclosed: Gem stones, platinum-group metals, uranium ore, and values indicated by footnotes 2 and 3---	- - - - -	1,643,937	- - - - -	3,009,000
Total----------	- - - - -	23,408,000	- - - - -	30,632,000

1/ Production as measured by mine shipments or marketable production (including consumption by producers).

2/ Figure withheld to avoid disclosure of individual company confidential data.

The 1956 figures are by the U.S.B.M. in cooperation with the TDM.

The 1957 figures are the best estimates obtainable to date and are presented here on authority of the TDM only.

It should be noted that the big increase in the total 1957 figures is due mostly to the new uranium production and also to sand & gravel and stone. These latter items are not truly minerals (since 1955) but are still carried by the U.S.B.M. for statistical reporting of mineral production throughout the U.S.