

AN ASBESTOS OCCURRENCE NEAR FOX,
FAIRBANKS DISTRICT

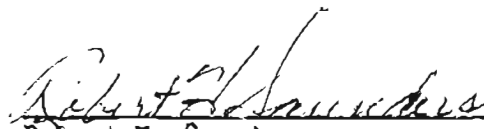
In October, 1958, James Donovan of Fairbanks informed me that he had found some asbestos in the area where he has been attempting to develop a limestone quarry near Fox. On October 19, 1958, I drove to his property, and he showed me the place where he had been picking up asbestos fibers.

The spot where the asbestos was found is about one mile downstream from Fox on the right limit side of Goldstream Creek. An excavation has been made at the bottom of the hill, and a few tons of limestone have been removed. A bulldozer cut has been made extending westward from the excavation; it appears that the cut was made by making a few passes with an angle blade, thus cutting into the toe of the slope. About 150 feet west of the place where the limestone has been removed, Donovan has found some asbestos fibers at the side of the cut. At this place a small hand-dug excavation has been made about three feet into the toe of the slope from the bulldozer cut. The material exposed includes sand, silt, organic soil, and angular pieces of crystalline limestone. Probably none of this unconsolidated material has been transported far from its bedrock source. By picking between the larger pieces of rock with a prospect pick, it is possible to pull out an occasional small bunch of asbestos fibers. Some of the fibers are two to three inches long, and they seem to have a rather high tensile strength.

The prospects lie approximately along the Fairbanks Meridian,

which is the boundary line between the townships in Range 1 East and those in Range 1 West. Early in 1959, Donovan found that part of the land covered by his mining claims is included in an old patented homestead. The Fairbanks Meridian is the east boundary of the homestead. At one time the exact location of the Fairbanks Meridian at this place was marked on the ground by a section corner in Goldstream valley a short distance south of the prospects. Apparently this section corner was destroyed when Goldstream valley was dredged. From comparing recent maps of the area with the ground configuration, it appears that the asbestos occurrence is on the patented homestead, which covers the East one-half of Section 36, Township 2 North, Range 1 West. It now appears unlikely that Donovan will make any further attempt to find the bedrock source of the asbestos.

College, Alaska
May, 1959.


Robert E. Saunders
State Mining Engineer