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PRELIMINARY REPORT ON MY CREEK STIBNITE PROSPECT, FORTYMILE DISTRICT, ALASKA

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Location

In July, 1942, an examination was made by the writers of a stibnite prospect on My Creek, near the head of the Middle Fork of the Fortymile River. My Creek is a west-flowing tributary of Molly Creek, which is the easternmost of two large streams that constitute the headwaters of the Middle Fork of the Fortymile River.

The stibnite prospect is situated at an altitude of about 4,000 feet, in a broad saddle of the ridge south of My Creek. It is about five miles east of the mouth of My Creek and 12 miles southwest of Mt. Veta, (see U. S. Geol. Survey Circle Quadrangle map). At present the nearest useable landing field is at Chicken, about 50 airline miles to the east, or about 70 miles on foot.

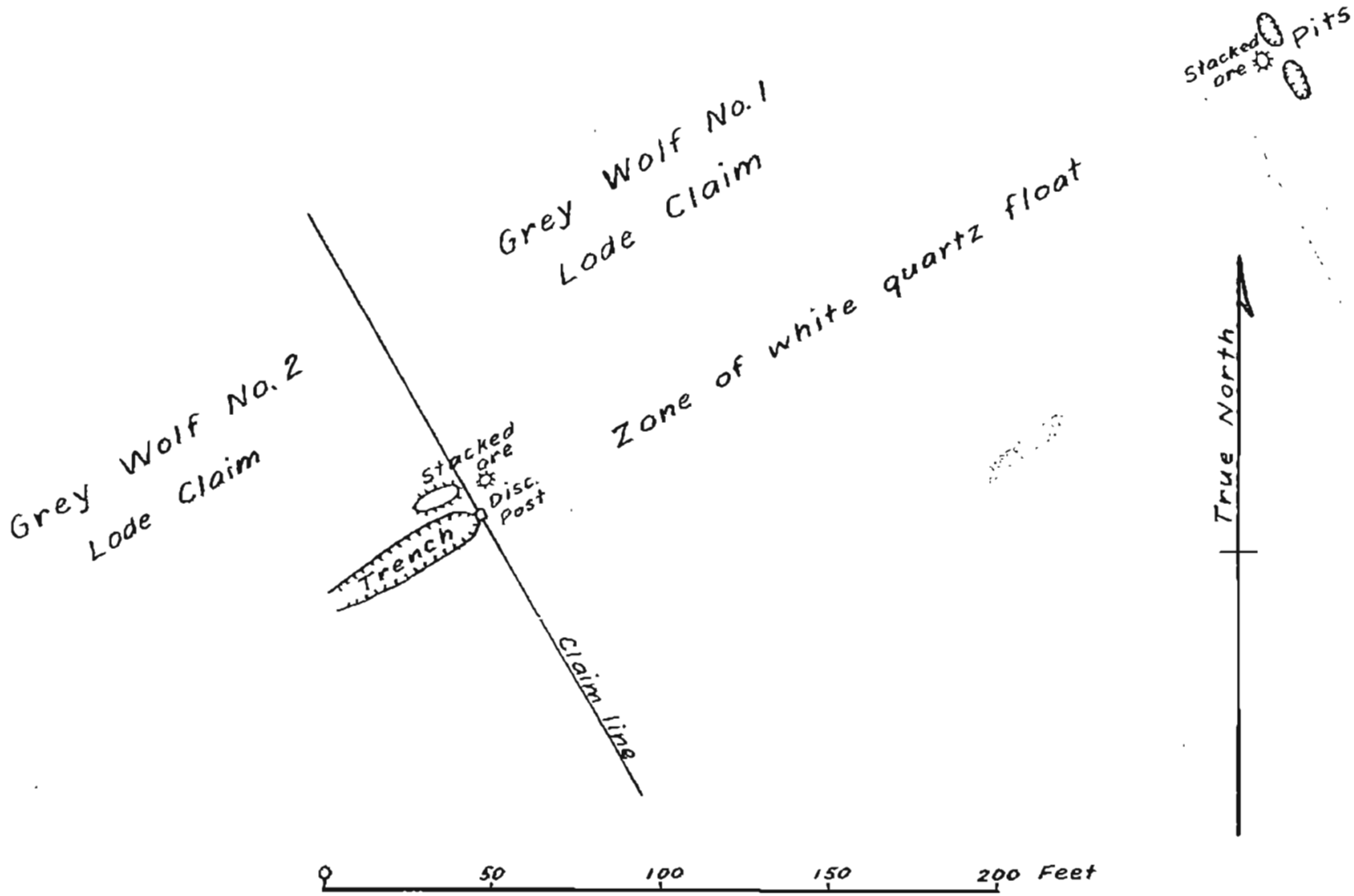
Mining Claims

Two lode claims, measuring approximately 600 by 1,500 feet each, have been staked by Dan Manske of Fairbanks and Fred Purdy of Chicken. According to the location notices the claims are named Grey Wolf No. 1 and Grey Wolf No. 2; the owners are Anne and Fred Purdy, Lasetta and Dan Manske, and Ethyl and William Taft.

Showings

In the vicinity of the prospect the country rock is mainly quartz mica schist and quartzite schist, overlain by about five feet of moss, silt and slide rock. No exposures of rock in place were seen.

The stibnite occurs in a zone of white, vuggy quartz that is over 100 feet wide in places and is traceable by means of float for over 1,500 feet (see sketch). In the unconsolidated material over the quartz zone the coarse float consists almost entirely of vein quartz. Some of these quartz masses are several feet across.



Sketch Map of My Creek Stibnite Prospect.

A slight depression, swampy for the most part, was noted over the quartz zone. Its significance is not understood.

Development of the prospect consists of a trench 50 feet long and from three to six feet deep, and several pits about four feet deep. Bedrock was apparently reached in the upper end of the trench, which was extended downhill along the ridge in order to carry away seepage water. The trench was partially caved at the time of the examination, so that bedrock was not visible. In the pits bedrock could not be reached because of excessive seepage.

No stibnite in place was seen, but a large amount of float has been uncovered in the trench and in the pits for a distance of 275 feet along the quartz zone. About four tons of ore, estimated to contain over 50 percent antimony, as well as several tons of lower grade ore, were found in the overburden during prospecting. One piece of high-grade stibnite measured 20 inches across and several feet in length. It is likely that considerably more ore occurs as float.

Much of the high-grade ore is nearly pure stibnite, containing no other visible sulfide minerals and practically no quartz. In the lower grade ore the only apparent impurity is quartz. The stibnite is of the coarse, bladed variety; some of the crystals are an inch wide and six inches long. Although some of it has been altered to yellow oxides of antimony that are pseudomorphs of stibnite, most of the ore is remarkably fresh, with an exceptionably brilliant lustre.

Conclusions

Although no ore in place has been found, the large amount of high-grade float, which evidently came from an orebody of considerable size, indicates that additional prospecting is worthwhile. Since stibnite float is found over a

distance of 275 feet, it is likely that the ore zone is persistent. Like most stibnite deposits, however, it may vary considerably in width.

Because of the wet ground and the gentle slope of the ridge, hand prospecting is difficult and slow. Surface prospecting could probably be best done with a bulldozer, supplemented by dynamite to break the larger pieces of quartz. Underground work should not be started until a suitable body of ore has been found by surface prospecting.

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