

Purdy Gold-Quartz Prospect

R. H. Saunders

Eagle Quad

P.E. 60-9
K 1758
K 60 58

REPORT ON THE
PURDY GOLD-QUARTZ PROSPECT, EAGLE QUADRANGLE

On August 26, 1959, while in the Fortymile District, I examined a lode-gold prospect owned by Fred and Arthur Purdy. The prospect is on the right limit side of Myers Fork near the head of the creek and about four miles from the mouth of the creek. A road, suitable only for four-wheel-drive vehicles goes from the Purdy brothers' placer mine on Myers Fork to the prospect.

The prospect is on a vein, slightly less than one inch wide, from which the Purdy brothers have obtained a few pounds of gold-quartz fragments in which the gold appears to constitute about one-fourth of the total volume of the fragments. The high-grade specimens were taken from a hand-dug pit 7 to 8 feet long and about 5 feet deep. The vein is in highly metamorphosed sediments, apparently a part of the Birch Creek schist formation. Near the surface the footwall is marble, and the hanging wall is red mica schist. At the bottom of the pit there is a narrow seam bearing metallic sulfides in the marble, but there is no mineralization along the contact between the marble and the red schist. The narrow seam may or may not be the downward extension of the vein.

The vein appears to be faulted at each end of the pit; the structure is obscured by faulting, surface fracturing, creep, slumping, and weathering to such an extent that it is difficult to follow the vein or any other feature. The vein strikes N 65° E; at the surface it appears to dip 75° to 80° N, but the seam at the bottom of the pit appears to dip .

Several other pits have been dug west of the main exposure. In

some of them, gold can be panned from narrow seams, but none of the pits appears to be on the high-grade vein.

During this examination, a sample was taken from the sulfide-bearing marble along the seam at the bottom of the pit; it assayed 0.08 oz. of gold and 0.14 Oz. of silver per ton. Another sample of marble carrying sulfides was taken from a bulldozer cut 50 feet south of the main exposure; it assayed a trace of gold and no silver. Pyrite, sphalerite, and crocoite (lead-chromium oxide) were identified in the second sample.

Arthur Purdy reported that several years ago 1200 pounds of ore was shipped from a similar vein near the head of Chicken Creek and the ore contained about one dollar in gold per pound.

Apparently the only way to follow the vein or to find the offset segments is to excavate carefully, either by hand or with a bulldozer, in such a manner that the rock exposed can be examined in detail for any mineralized seam that could be the extension of the high-grade vein.

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