

(1.0, 2.7)

149052'

63009'

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V. ...

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TERRITORY OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF MINES

PE 67-2

REPORT ON THE READY CASH PROSPECT <sup>2x67-45</sup>  
OHIO CREEK, HEALY QUADRANGLE

by

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	page
INTRODUCTION	1
LOCATION AND ACCESSIBILITY	1
HISTORY OF THE PROPERTY	2
PREVIOUS REPORTS	3
SAMPLES AND ASSAYS	4
SUMMARY	5

## APPENDIX

TABLE I, Samples from the Ready Cash Prospect.

## ABSTRACT

The Ready Cash prospect is on Ohio Creek in the southwestern part of the Healy Quadrangle about 12 miles west of the Alaska Railroad. The prospect is included in nine claims that were patented in 1927. Two adits have been driven on the property, but both are now inaccessible. Samples from the prospect have contained gold, silver, copper, lead, zinc, and antimony. Some of the samples have been rich enough to justify more work on the prospect.

## INTRODUCTION

A private report on the Ready Cash prospect was written by F. Le Roi Thurmond in 1918; Thurmond was impressed favorably by the prospect, and his report recommends that additional work be done. The prospect was examined by Stephen R. Capps of the U. S. Geological Survey in 1917, and it was examined in 1931 by Clyde P. Ross, also of the U. S. Geological Survey. The reports of these two examinations have been published in U. S. Geological Bulletins. The prospect was examined in July 1954 by Martin W. Jasper and Robert H. Saunders, Associate Mining Engineers of the Department of Mines, to determine the amount of work that has been done since 1931 and to acquire any other information that would be important to potential investors.

This report summarizes and compares the three earlier reports and describes the conditions at the property as they were in 1954.

## LOCATION AND ACCESSIBILITY

The prospect is at  $63^{\circ} 09'$  N latitude and  $149^{\circ} 51'$  W longitude in the southwestern part of the Realy Quadrangle. It is on Canyon Creek, which is a tributary to Ohio Creek, which is a tributary to Chulitna River. The latitude and longitude given by Thurmond differs from that shown on recent maps.

There is a cable suspension bridge across the Chulitna River about two miles south of Honolulu Station on the Alaska Railroad; the bridge is visible from the railroad. Formerly,

there was a trail across the Chulitna valley and up Ohio Creek to the prospect, but the trail has become overgrown with brush. Much of the Chulitna valley is swamp and muskeg, and, where the ground is firm, thick alder brush grows. The prospect is about 12 miles from the railroad.

Probably heavy equipment could be taken to the prospect in the winter when the ground is frozen. A landing strip suitable for small aircraft could be built on the gravel bars along Ohio Creek with little difficulty.

#### HISTORY OF THE PROPERTY

The first claims were staked on the Ready Cash prospect in 1915 by a group of men from Anchorage. Dr. J. H. McCallie of Anchorage acquired nine of the claims, presumably the nine most valuable, and in 1927 he obtained patent to those claims.

From the previous reports, it appears that between 1915 and 1917 two adits were driven: one about 170 feet long and the other 60 feet long. The 60-ft adit may have been inaccessible in 1917; if it was inaccessible, then it was reopened by September 1918, and also during this time some surface trenching must have been done on the slopes above the adits. Between 1918 and 1931, little, if any, work was done, and apparently the surface trenches became filled with sloughings. At the end of the shorter adit there is a drift that follows a vein for 16 feet; this drift may have been driven between 1918 and 1931. There is no evidence that any work has been done since 1931, and the workings have become inaccessible.

## PREVIOUS REPORTS

The Ready Cash prospect was examined in July, 1917, by Stephen R. Capps of the U. S. Geological Survey, and his report was published in U. S. G. S. Bulletin 692, MINERAL RESOURCES OF ALASKA, 1917, on pages 228 and 229. His report describes the longer adit and the vein outcrop above it. His report also contains some information about the shorter adit, but this information was obtained from another person.

The prospect was examined in August and September, 1918, by E. Le Roi Thurmond, and a copy of his report is in the Department of Mines files at Juneau. Thurmond's report describes seven veins, which are numbered from 1 to 7 from south to north. Vein 3 is the vein cut by the shorter adit. Veins 3 and 6 are described as the most valuable of the seven veins. Thurmond's report recommends extending the longer adit an estimated 177 feet to intersect vein 3, which was exposed in the shorter adit and in an outcrop above the shorter adit.

The prospect was examined in 1931 by Clyde F. Ross of the U. S. Geological Survey, and his report was published in U. S. G. S. Bulletin 849-A, MINERAL DEPOSITS NEAR THE WEST FORK OF THE CHULITNA RIVER, ALASKA, on pages 318 to 320. The report by Ross describes a vein outcrop on the west side of Canyon Creek; this outcrop is not mentioned in the two earlier reports, but in 1954 it was plainly visible. Ross entered both adits and his report describes the veins that Thurmond numbered 1 and 3. He does not describe any veins north of vein 3, and it is likely that the pits in which

veins 4 to 7 were exposed; had become filled with sloughings. Ross suggests that the three vein exposures that he saw - exposures on the veins numbered 1 and 3 by Thurmond and the outcrop west of Canyon Creek - are segments of one vein that has been displaced by faulting.

#### SAMPLES AND ASSAYS

Table I shows the assay results of 12 samples that were taken from the Ready Cash prospect. Capps took no samples during his examination in 1917. Thurmond's report includes a table listing 15 samples; of these, nine were samples of selected specimens, and one was a sample of float; therefore, ten of his samples were not representative of the deposits. Of the remaining five samples in his report, three were taken from vein 3 by Thurmond, one was taken from vein 3 by the owners, and one was taken from vein 6 by Thurmond. These five samples are included in Table I. Ross took three samples during his examination: one from the outcrop west of Canyon Creek, one from the shorter adit, and one from the outcrop over the longer adit. All three are included in Table I. Jasper and Saunders took one sample from the outcrop west of Canyon Creek; it is included in the table.

In Thurmond's report, the amount of lead in three of his samples is not given, and the report fails to explain if those samples were not tested for lead or if they contained no lead. Ross apparently did not have his samples tested for copper.

## SUMMARY

It appears that little if any work has been done on the prospect since Thurmond's examination was made.

All three of the earlier reports agree that there has been much faulting in the vicinity of the two adits. Thurmond thought that the vein that outcrops over the longer adit had been intersected by the adit, but Capps and Ross thought that the vein had been faulted so that it was not exposed in the adit.

Thurmond recommended extending the longer adit to intersect vein 3. Ross' report points out that if the longer adit were extended it probably would not intersect vein 3 because of faulting. According to Ross, the ground near the two adits may be faulted too much to contain any commercial orebodies, and he suggests that in order to find an orebody it may be necessary to seek a less shattered part of the lode.

Some of the samples from veins 3 and 6 have been rich enough to justify more prospecting on those veins. Perhaps surface trenching would be the best way to start a new prospecting program. Possibly, by trenching, the veins could be traced away from the fault zone into less disturbed ground. Because the topography above the adits is too rugged to permit the use of crawler-type tractors for trenching, the possibility of using water from Ohio Creek for cutting trenches should be considered.

All samples that are taken from the prospect in the future should be assayed for lead and zinc as well as for gold, silver, and copper.



TABLE I

## SAMPLES FROM THE READY CASH PROSPECT

Location	Width	Taken By	Ounces per Ton			Per Cent		
			Gold	Silver	Copper	Lead	Other	
Outcrop of vein 3 above 60-ft adit	8 ft	Thurmond	0.04	25	1.5	6.8		
Same	8 ft	Thurmond	Tr	5	0.5			
Same	8 ft	Thurmond	0.02	20	1.5			
Same	8 ft	Ownere	0.08	27	1.95	5.0		
Same	10 ft	Ross	Tr	1.80			Nil	
Vein 3 in 60-ft adit	6 ft	Thurmond	0.01	2	0.5			
Vein west of Canyon Creek	3 ft	Ross	0.01	4.2		0.52		
Same	3 ft	Jasper and Saunders	0.10	37.50	1.33	15.54		Zinc 2.55 Antimony 4.52
Vein 6:	?	Thurmond	0.20	15	3			
Same	?	Thurmond	0.60	42.40	15			
Same	?	Thurmond	0.48	21	4.60			
Vein 1	10 ft	Ross	Tr	0.70				Lead not determined but small.