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PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE IHLY-CALLAHAN-PANKY
SILVER-LEAD PROSPECT NEAR GOLD CREEK, CHULITNA
SUB-DISTRICT, ALASKA

An examination was made, at the request of the property owners, of a silver-lead prospect near Gold Creek Station, Mile 264 on the Alaska Railroad. The prospect is situated on Eldorado Creek, a tributary of Gold Creek, in the Chulitna Sub-district, Valdez Creek District, Cook Inlet-Susitna Region of Alaska. The geographical location is at Latitude $62^{\circ} 44' N$ and Longitude $149^{\circ} 33' W$. Property owners are Nick Ihly, John Callahan, and Ray Panky. The examination was made by the undersigned June 25-27, 1952.

The prospect is reached in one of two ways, depending on weather and water run-off conditions. During low-water periods the property is reached by following Gold Creek, traveling upstream in a southeasterly direction a distance of three miles to the mouth of Eldorado Creek; thence up Eldorado Creek in an easterly direction a distance of three miles to the showing. A cabin is situated on Eldorado Creek about a half mile downstream from the prospect.

During high-water periods a round-about route is traveled. Beginning at Gold Creek Station (elevation 700 feet) a route is followed in an easterly direction for a distance of $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles, climbing to an elevation of 3200 feet; thence southerly a distance of $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles and back down to Eldorado Creek and the cabin at an elevation of 1900 feet. This route is shown on the attached vicinity map and is the one traveled on this examination.

The deposit is exposed at two places on the banks of a small tributary which flows northward into Eldorado Creek about half a mile above the cabin (see attached vicinity map). The general country rock is dark-gray to black slate with many "blooms" of barren quartz lenses exposed. On the left limit of the above-mentioned tributary a quartz-porphphyry dike has intruded the slate. The dike has an average width of 5 feet, strikes $N 20^{\circ} E$, dips approximately 80° to the NW, and lies conformably with the bedding planes of the slate.

On the right limit a similar dike outcrops. This dike averages 7 feet in width, strikes due north and dips approximately 85° to the east. Both dikes have been fractured transversely and the fractures are filled with quartz containing galena, pyrite, and chalcopyrite. These fractures vary from $\frac{1}{2}$ inch to 8 inches in width and extend from wall to wall of the dike. No movement or deposition of siliceous material was evident between the dike walls and the slate country rock. There was no evidence of mineralization of the dike material. Sample No. 1 was taken from a $3\frac{1}{2}$ -inch stringer of quartz showing galena, pyrite and chalcopyrite.

The projection of the two dikes in a northerly direction indicated that they would converge before reaching Eldorado Creek, and should cross the creek a short distance upstream, or east of the mouth of the tributary. This location was investigated and a single dike, 12 feet wide, with the same characteristics was found to cross Eldorado Creek and extend on northward. Sample No. 2 was taken from a narrow quartz stringer in the same type of cross-fracture at this point. Assay results follow.

	<u>Oz. per Ton</u>		<u>Percent</u>
	<u>Au.</u>	<u>Ag.</u>	<u>Pb.</u>
Sample No. 1	Tr.	Nil	0.43
Sample No. 2	Nil	0.50	0.49

Later prospecting by the owners turned up samples running from 0.02 to 0.06 oz/ton in gold, and 0.28 to 1.98 oz/ton in silver.

Stephen R. Capps, in U.S.G.S. Bulletin 692 reported that the Gold Creek gravels at its mouth were gold bearing, but had never been mined commercially. An unusual occurrence of large gold nuggets in coarse angular slide material on the high benches of Eldorado Creek, just below the dikes described above, was noted during the examination.

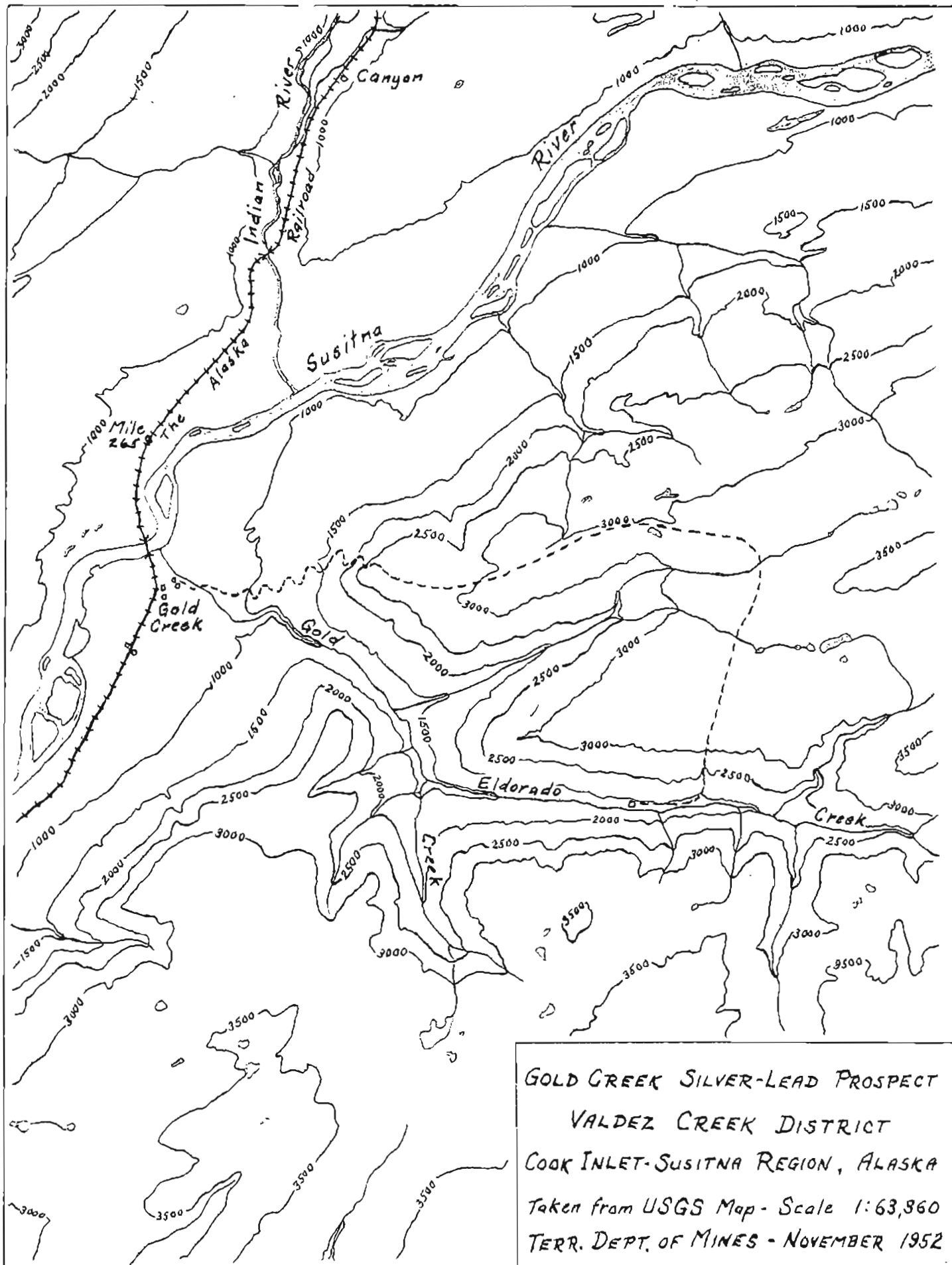
Also of importance, in connection with this general examination, is the occurrence of a somewhat similar deposit some 18 miles to the northeast. This deposit, known as the Mint mine, was discovered by Arthur Moose Johnson. He and his partner, Harry A. Wertz, developed the property during 1922 and 1923. Some extremely high grade silver assays were reported, due to the presence of pyrargyrite. Other sulphides present in the quartz stringers were arsenopyrite, chalcopyrite, galena, and pyrite. No actual production has been reported from this property. The most complete

report on this occurrence, by S. R. Capps and M. N. Short, is found in U.S.G.S. Bulletin 783.

As far as the Eldorado Creek prospect is concerned, the owners were advised to attempt to follow the intrusive dike to the north in hopes of some change in character, or a possible change in host rock. Both dikes appeared to " peter out " to the south. The slate country rock covers a considerable area here, and it does not appear likely that a commercial ore deposit would develop on Eldorado Creek in connection with this particular intrusive.

P.R.H.

Phil R. Holdsworth



GOLD CREEK SILVER-LEAD PROSPECT
VALDEZ CREEK DISTRICT
COOK INLET-SUSITNA REGION, ALASKA
Taken from USGS Map - Scale 1:63,360
TERR. DEPT. OF MINES - NOVEMBER 1952