

PRELIMINARY REPORT OF ESTHER GROUP, ESTHER ISLAND,
PORT WELLS DISTRICT, ALASKA
August 18, 1938

Location and Accessibility:

The Esther group of two claims is located on the southwest side of Esther Island, inland 1500 feet from the beach, and south of a large bay. A trail starting from a cabin on the beach leads up to the workings at an elevation of 490 feet.

Owners:

The claims are held by Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Harris of Culross Island.

History:

The discovery on this group was made by Wm. Harris in 1914. A tunnel was started along the footwall and was driven 8 feet. Some stripping was done and since that time the property has remained open, until restaked by Mr. Harris in 1935. Since then only a small amount of assessment work has been done. This season the property was optioned to D. McRae for \$10,000.

Geology and Showings:

The location of this prospect is in graywacke and graywacke schists near the contact of the Esther granite. For a description of this granite, contact zone, and sediments refer to U. S. G. S. bulletin No. 592, "Mineral Resources of Alaska, 1913," "The Port Wells Gold-lode District" by B. L. Johnson. The showings are contained along a shear zone 5 to 6 feet in width which strikes N. 40° E. and dips 85° NW. This shear was reported traced 1500 feet. The only showing of note is located at an elevation of 490 feet, where a small creek cuts across the shear and exposes irregular masses of sugar quartz showing free gold. The shear zone is of a very strong nature and has distinct walls. A tunnel in 8 feet on the footwall shows in the face a 4-foot width of narrow quartz and schist bands.

A channel sample across 39 inches at the face gave results of 0.11 oz. gold and a trace of silver per ton. In the creek bed, and exposed for a distance of 40 feet, irregular masses of quartz show. This quartz is very granular and crumbles under the hammer. On each end of this exposed section the quartz changes from masses to narrow stringers

which disappear under cover. The shear is again exposed in a small branch of the main creek 50 feet above. Here small quartz bands show on the footwall and are exposed only a few feet (note location on sketch).

A channel sample was taken across 4'9" of quartz in the bed of the creek. This gave results of 0.08 oz. of gold and a trace of silver. Another channel sample taken above the portal of the tunnel across 2 feet of quartz gave 0.75 oz. of gold and a trace of silver.

Mineralization:

The metallic minerals noted in the ore were pyrite, galena and free gold. The pyrite occurs both in the quartz and the schists. The gangue minerals consisted of a granular quartz with minor amounts of altered wall rock minerals included.

Timber is abundant along the coast of the island, but water power is lacking. Further prospecting is warranted along this shear zone.