(13.1, 14.6)

54°49'N
132°44'W

TERRITORY OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF MINES

ASSAY OFFICE

KETCHIKAN, ALASKA

[redacted]

PE-121-04

INVESTIGATION OF H. F. FOSTER PROSPECT

KX 121-41

CONING INLET,

LONG ISLAND.

(Ketchikan Recording District)

By

A. E. Glover

Dec. 1954

TO: Phil Holdsworth, Commissioner of Mines October 19, 1954

FROM: Art Glover, Engr.,-Assayer

SUBJECT: Investigation of H. F. Foster Prospect, Coning Inlet, Long Island (Dixon Entrance Quadrangle), Ketchikan Recording Precinct, Oct. 1st, 1954.

Late in 1950 a letter from Mr. Tom Richards, Lyman, Washington, was received at the Ketchikan office of the Department of Mines, inquiring about an assay sample he had submitted in 1942 from a discovery made while logging at Coning Inlet, Long Island, off the southwest coast of Prince of Wales Island. This letter initiated a four-year series of correspondence between Mr. Richards and the writer, wherein Mr. Richards attempted to describe the location of the prospect and requested Department assistance in investigating it. His information indicated that the discovery had consisted of a ten to fifteen foot vein, exposed for about twenty feet, and containing substantial silver, copper, and lead values.

After establishing the approximate location, and with Mr. Richards' approval, the writer interested Mr. John Bufvers, a Ketchikan prospector, in the story and obtained from him an oral agreement that Mr. Richards would receive a one-third interest in the claim if Mr. Bufvers was able to locate it and found it worthy. Bufvers then made a comprehensive study of the data provided by Mr. Richards and, in addition, studied a Department report on the Foster Prospect (SR-JCR, Aug. 1942), made available to him by the present writer who believed the two prospects to be in the same immediate area if, indeed, they were not one and the same properties. Mr. Bufvers then proceeded to Coning Inlet and spent two days diligently seerching for the occurrence, but was unsuccessful due to the extremely heavy growth of brush and other impediments to travel and visibility in this logged-off area.

Following another interchange of letters with Mr. Richards, the writer

decided to make a personal attempt to find the reported showing and to determine, if possible, whether continued interest was justified. Accordingly arrangements were made and the writer arrived at Coning Inlet late on September 30th. The following day the search was begun.

Prior information had established that the prospect lay near the western branch of a logging road that began at the beach, near the head of Coning Inlet, which starting point was readily found. Travel on the old planked road was good to a point just beyond the branch. The right-hand branch, which had been indicated as leading to the vicinity of the prospect, soon becomes very brushy even though it is elevated from three to ten feet above the ground. On either side of the road heavy brush and downed timber interlaced through the brush makes visibility and travel extremely difficult, as Mr. Bufvers had reported.

In the area where the prospect was thought to be, four hours were spent in a fruitless search. Finally, retracing the route to an area which had been traversed earlier, and which had yielded the only encouraging signs of bedrock exposures so far in evidence, the search was concentrated. Here, purely by accident, a railroad rail anvil, on a three foot wood block, stood completely hidden by high, dense, brush. At least half an hour of further searching was necessary before the old dump and workings were discovered less than fifty feet away, all within one hundred feet of the first route through the same area.

Once found, this outcropping was seen to be well exposed on its downhill (west) side and along its length for about one hundred feet. Further examination indicated that it conformed in all respects to Roehm's description (SR-JCR August 1942) of the Foster prospect. Furthermore, it seemed to conform reasonably well with the somewhat rough description as given by Mr. Richards, although his discovery visit must have preceded, by a very narrow margin, the location and the work accomplished by Foster.

While it may be possible that underbrush covers another outcropping vein in the vicinity, the writer is of the definite opinion that the Foster prospect and the Richards prospect are one and the same. It is currently un-staked and there has been no further work accomplished since the date of Roehm's examination.

Two samples were cut across the rough, north face of the vein, as exposed for a width of eleven feet in the old cut. A grab sample was also taken from the dump. The assay results were as follows:

From footwall, 0 to 5 feet

Au	Nil
Ag	Trace
Cu	Trace
Pb	Trace

Ditto, 5 feet to 11 feet

Au	0.01
Ag	Trace
Cu	0.05 %
Pb	Trace

Grab, from Dump

Au	Trace
Ag	Trace
Cu	Trace
Pb	Nil

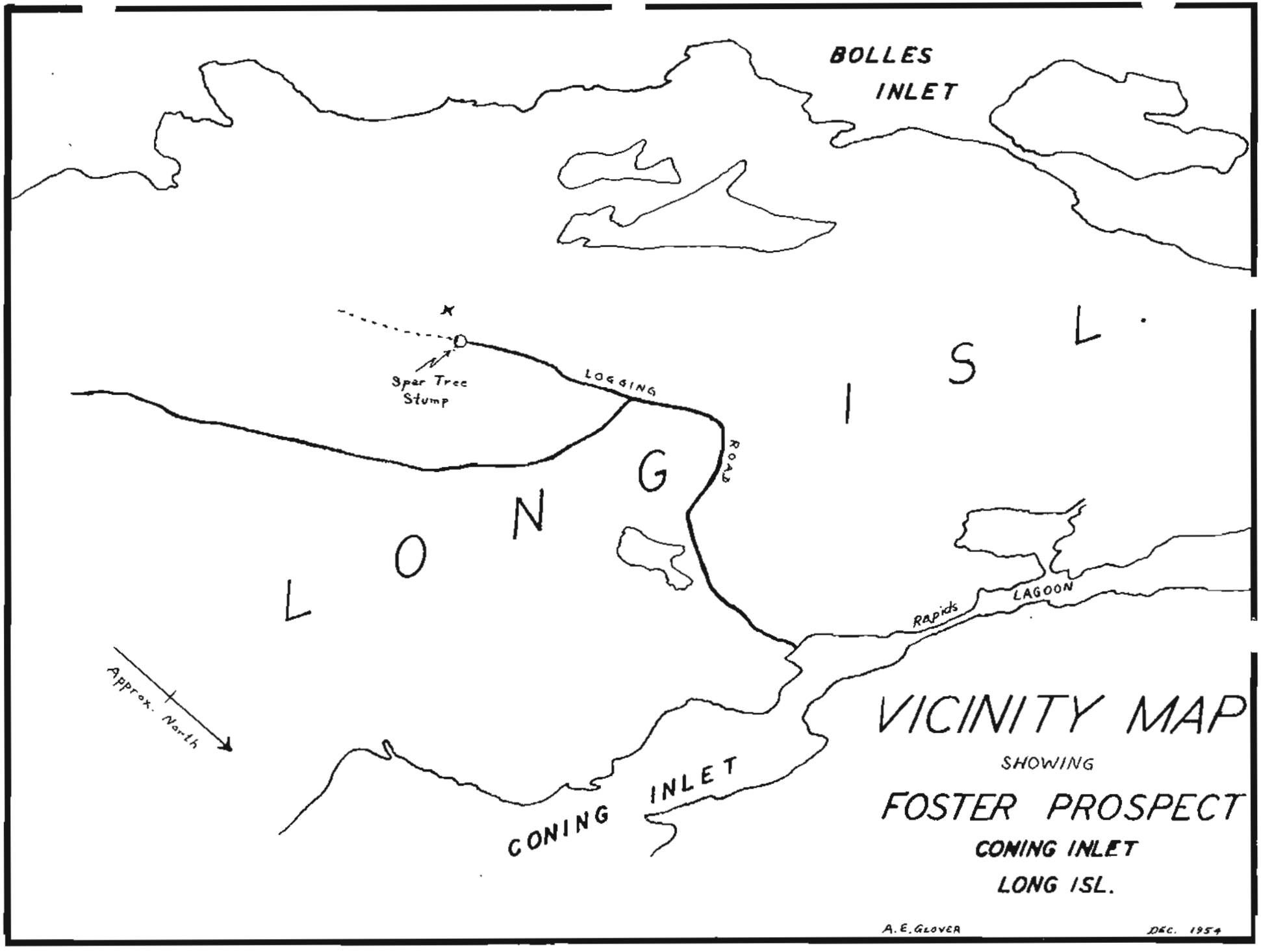
It should be noted that these assays reflect the effect of surface leaching of the sulfide minerals. It was not practical, at this time, to clean and prepare a deep cut prior to sampling, therefore the two samples from the vein represent a depth of cut amounting to one or two inches. Roehm's sampling was done at the bottom of the then new cut, and should be considered more accurately representative of the vein matter. The writer's samples were obtained primarily as rough checks and no attempt was made to separately sample the two to three feet of vein adjoining the hanging wall, which portion was seen to comprise the highest grade material. This higher grade portion was included in a five foot sample section by Roehm (Sample 1062), and in a six foot section by the writer (5 to 11).

Roehm's two samples are reported as follows:

Sample 1062		Sample 1063	
Au	Nil	Au	0.02 Oz. per ton
Ag	0.10 Oz. per ton	Ag	0.30 " " "
Cu	1.20 %	Cu	0.47 %
Pb	0.55 %	Pb	Nil
Zn	1.22 %	Zn	0.18

The current examination can add nothing of importance to Roehm's report. The values across a full mining width, in this one cut, do not appear to warrant particular interest, although the writer fully agrees with Roehm's suggestion that the vein should have been opened and sampled at one or two additional points along its exposed length. Generally, it would seem that in 1942, when the ground cover was at a minimum, the additional exploratory work necessary to properly evaluate the vein and to seek its extensions by trenching at each end, would have been inexpensive and wise. Now, however, the existing cover of dense brush and quantities of debris from logging operations severely reduces the chances for new surface discoveries and increases the cost and labor of trenching and other exploratory work. The fact remains, nevertheless, that the prospect appears to have little merit unless additional discoveries are made to increase both the tonnage and the tenor. The good width of the one known vein, the relationship to granitic intrusives and to massive limestone, together with other evidence suggesting faulting and shearing in the vicinity of the vein, and perhaps several hundred yards to the west thereof, are all favorable elements that should be weighed against the unfavorable features.

Art Glover, Engr.-Assayer


BOLLES
INLET
Spar Tree
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Rapids
LAGOON
Approx. North
CONING INLET
CONING INLET
VICINITY MAP
SHOWING
FOSTER PROSPECT
CONING INLET
LONG ISL.
A. E. GLOVER
DEC. 1954

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