

TERRITORY OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF MINES

FIELD STATION AND ASSAY OFFICE
Box 657 NOME, ALASKA

October 6, 1956

ITINERARY REPORT

TO: Phil R. Holdsworth, Commissioner of Mines

FROM: Martin W. Jasper, Territorial Mining Engineer

SUBJECT: Trip along Seward Hiway to check on activity of various gold-quartz and placer property owners, made at request of Fred Hinton and Wm. Johnson.

September 12, 1956. Leaving Anchorage at 9:30 AM in personal car two hours were spent with Joe Danich at Girdwood. Mr. Danich advised that there had been no prospectors active in the Girdwood district to his knowledge during the past season. Work planned by L. McGee on the old patented placer claims of Mr. Girdwood was not undertaken, as that program hinged upon acquiring the Erickson Placers immediately downstream from the Girdwood ground for which an agreement satisfactory to all concerned could not be made.

Mile 49, Dahl Placer Property. An hour and a half was spent with L. McGee, who recently bought the property from Oscar Dahl. There are 24 placer claims in this holding. Mr. McGee has built 4 cabins near the hiway for crew quarters, with a large shop being constructed. Pipelines to large extent have been repaired and/or rebuilt, with some working lines planned to be laid before seasons end.

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A large part of the 400 to 700 foot left limit bench has been stripped of overburden in preparation for mining, on the theory that Canyon creeks old channel at one time traversed this area. "Rims" along the present Canyon creek stream bed together with bedrock contours as exposed in past placer operations in this area indicate that to be a definite possibility. A ditch, 1500 to 2000 feet in length, has been built from end of the French Creek pipeline, paralleling and on creek side of hiway. The ditch discharges in a storage reservoir, which is planned to hold sufficient water supply for an 8 out of 24 hour ground sluicing operation.

A 32 inch sluice box, 40 feet in length, mounted on log skids, lined with 14 guage steel plate and with rail riffles, has been built. It is planned to set the sluice on a steep grade (12"/12' ?) and ground sluice into it. Plan to drill the ground was discarded in favor of testing with a ground sluicing set-up, which the owner believes will permit a fairer test of values through bulk sampling. The ground probably ranges from 30 to 40 feet in depth of "shingly" gravel with no appreciable amount of large boulders visible in old workings. With abundant water available this method of testing should be very cheap. However, it is generally believed that ground sluicing results in losing a large percentage of gold.

Surface indications also suggest an old channel of Canyon and/or Mills creeks to be on the right limit side of Canyon creeks present entrenched stream bed. Mr. McGee plans to test that area as well.

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Mr. McGee reported that he had bought the old St. Louis Mining Company pipeline (Resurrection Creek, Hope area) recently and was hauling some of it to the Dahl property in September, with balance to be picked up next year. (Pictures of the Dahl property area are attached).

Two men were employed at time of visit, with the crew varying up to 5. Wage rates were said to be \$1.38 for labor and \$1.50 per hour for tractor operators, with the men boarding themselves.

Mills Creek. Louis Shell holds 5 placer claims on this stream, which flows into Canyon creek about $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{3}$ mile above McGee's camp. Mr. Shell was not contacted, but Mr. McGee advised that Mr. Shell had spent the season in effort to build a tractor road to upper end of his Mills creek ground without success, being handicapped with small tractor, steep slopes, and soft ground. Two or three men were reported to have been working with Mr. Shell part of the season; no mining was done by them.

Several oldtimers have advised that Mills creek has been the principal placer producer of the region. Reputedly quoting Louis Shell - who is said to have spent most of his life in that area - as their authority, they believe Mills creek has produced "close to a million dollars". However, no evidence has been seen in government publications that would indicate the total gold production of Kenai Peninsula totalled that much.

Mile 42 $\frac{1}{2}$. Fred Hanton Gold Quartz Property (Formerly the Bob Hatcher property, who transferred the property to the United Gold Mining and Development Company, which he organized). Located on Slate creek.

The lower camp - at millsite - was reached at 5 PM. A 25 minute hike from the hiway (a distance estimated at slightly less than 1 mile), a tractor road was built for this distance the past summer, which is passable with 4 wheel drive trucks.

It was learned on arrival that plans to clear portals of old caved adits had not been done as miner hired for that purpose had become ill few days after his arrival and returned home, and examination of the old workings could not be made.

Remaining overnight the 18 to 25 ton mill was looked over the next morning. The mill building was in poor state of repair. Foundations of building and equipment have settled, and all equipment will require new foundations and realignment. The mine to mill tram line will require new towers; all cables appear to be in good condition.

In discussing history of the property Mr. Hinton stated original discovery was made around 1905 (?), with high grade "float" traced to outcrop near ridge crest on left limit (east side) of the steep narrow "V" shaped gulch of Slate creek. Following a year or two of trenching and driving an adit, it was said to have been optioned in 1906 or 1907, Stone & Webster who

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were then contractors for construction of the Alaska Northern Railway out of Seward. That winter they drove an adit 400 to 500 in length about halfway down Slate creek left limit slope, and abandoned their option on failing to find any ore.

Following that work another adit was driven by others for couple hundred feet, located an estimated 200 below the one last noted.

Dump of another adit was noted an estimated 20 to 30 feet above Slate creek on right limit slope (west side). Its length is not known but the small dump indicates it is less than a 100 feet. This is located an estimated 800 to 1000 upstream from the mill. It seems obvious this working also failed to find ore.

Total footage of underground work is not known by Mr. Henton. With the quartz veins and stringers carrying gold values in this district apparently closely associated (and presumably structurally related) with the Gilpatrick Dike, it is considered likely that future work here as well as elsewhere along this dike, holds little expectation of finding other than the small erratically rich crasshoots similar to those found in the past.

Mr. Henton reports that \$42,000 was produced by the company's last season of operation in 1941, which was said to have had an average value of around \$80.00 per ton. He bought the property in at public auction in 1946, and has held the property since then through performance of annual assessment work on the 3 claims.

Examination of the property will be delayed until such time as the old workings are cleaned out.

A grab sample was taken of the few pounds of ore left in the mill ore bin, but sample has not been run to date.

During course of field trips effort is made to assemble "oldtimers" impressions and knowledge of old properties in their districts or their professed knowledge of prospects in other regions. It is well established that "merit and importance" of old prospects increase with age. Their observations, however, are worth noting for occasionally some of their observations may be of real interest and value in future examination of the prospects.

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Fred Henton mention the old Sater gold-quartz property, located up Colorado creek (or Fresno creek?), which he reported had recently been relocated by a Seward man. This showing is said to carry high silver values (up to \$100.00?), but he was not clear as to widths or exact location.

Mr. Henton mentioned that a George Lindsey had relocated the old Oracle gold-quartz property, and been working it the past season with one man but he understood Lindeay was in town for a week or so. This property is located on Summit creek, about 1 mile off the hiway and accessible by car over a fair road to the small mill.

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Mr. Henton recalled that in the early days of the district numerous arrastra's had been built on various gold-quartz properties, including one on Slate creek (still visible 400 to 500 feet from his cabin at Mile 42 $\frac{1}{2}$), two on Summit creek, and one on Colorado creek.

September 13, 1956. Returning to the Hiway shortly after noon, two hours was spent in the Seward Mining Records office from 3 to 5 PM.

The records were gone over in the U. S. Commissioners office. It was found that only 10 Proofs of Labor had been filed on properties so far this year. Commissioner Margit Edwards noted that in addition to those, Henry Cuffel and a Mr. La Ford had advised her of their intention to do the work and that they had been delayed in getting tractor equipment into the "radioactive" claim group by breakdowns and the heavy snowdrifts remaining in the Tunnel area. No new claim locations were said to have been made in the Seward Precinct this year.

September 14, 1956. Effort was made to visit the Crown Point gold-quartz property. Leaving the hiway at Mile 25 $\frac{1}{4}$ (Crown Point railway siding) at 9 AM the 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 6 mile hike required 4 hours over the steep tractor and jeep road to 4000 foot elevation at base of cliff below the mine portal and camp. Unable to attract attention of the operators due to noise of diesel and compressor plant during a half hour period return was made to the Hiway at 4:30 PM. Views of area are attached.

This property, known as the Dryer property and also the Crown Point, is being worked under lease agreement from John Dryer by five men - Pat Bogan, Richard Bogard, Gus Hanson, George Massoz, and Albert Toffelmire. It has been reported that the partners are mining ground averaging around \$400.00 per ton in gold with a very small amount of the ore having three or four times that value, but this report has not been verified. With poor recovery made in a small ^{mill} at the mine they have been shipping the ore in barrels to the Tacoma smelter this season. The father of Richard Bogard advised the partners objective was to ship 200 tons this season of which 3 carloads were shipped prior to September 15th (an estimated 120 to 150 tons).

Anson Gouldsberry, owner of the East Crown Point gold-quartz property on the opposite side of the glacial cirque valley from the John Dryer property, was reported to have been working his property the past season alone. These workings were not visited as Mr. Gouldsberry was not on the ground at time of visit.

Driving back up the Hiway to Mile 54 the evening of Sept. 14th the night was spent with prospector Wm. Johnson, whose cabin is located on the bench above the road and reached by about 1200 feet of good trail.

September 15th, 1956. From Mr. Johnson's cabin, at elevation 1250 (which is 210 feet above the hiway at Mile 54) it is about 2 miles by very good trail to his showings at the 3160 elevation on "Faulted Ridge Mountain". The trail up the mountain was built with an average 15% grade.

Mr. Johnson's work to date has been limited to numerous trenches cross-cutting a "slumped" vein on the steep slope for about 400 feet along

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its apparent strike. At no place in the numerous trenches has the quartz vein been exposed in place. The broken, rusty quartz lies as a "blanket" paralleling the mountain slope from 2 to 3 feet below the surface. It is covered by a "shingly" slate or argillite with several inches of soil supporting a short grass and thin moss growth. The slumped, broken vein as exposed in the trenches lies between the 3160 to 3190 contours; the vein when found in place will probably have a strike within the limits of N65 to 80W and a fairly steep northerly dip into the mountain.

With strike of the formation (graywacke and argillite) being N10W and dip 50 to 55W in this vicinity, the unexposed vein is doubtless a fissure filling. The "slumped vein" in the various trenches has a thickness of 6 to 24 inches. Sampling this material as well as panning Mr. Johnson states it carries nil to \$30.00, with an average value (?) of \$20.00 to \$25.00 per ton. It is this material which he plans to feed the one ton Straub ball mill and recover the gold on an amalgamation plate, which he has set up nearby.

Three samples were taken of the "slumped" vein quartz, and while assay results have not been received a very dim view is taken of Mr. Johnson making a living on this type of an operation. Samples panned while there showed no values.

On the way up to Johnsons showings the old ditch which picked up stream flows from Pass and Frenchy creeks was crossed about halfway across this wide bench area at the 1480 foot elevation. This ditch (still in good condition where observed) is said to be 3 miles or more in length and developed water for hydraulicking in the Canyon creek forks area many years ago.

From point on the trail at the 1620 foot elevation the old Wiebel placer camp buildings are plainly visible across the valley on right limit of Canyon creek. Compass bearing to that point is S61E (true bearing). That camp was built in 1915. Located on a knoll along rim of Canyon creek, an estimated 150' above the entrenched stream bed, the camp is situated 500 to 600 feet from foot of mountain slope. An old channel of Canyon creek is located in the depression between the camp and base of mountain slope. That channel extends upstream an estimated 600 to 700 feet to point where it is cut by the present course of Canyon creek, and continues downstream an undetermined distance (probably a mile or more). Dr. Wiebel is reported (by Mr. Johnson) to have conducted a hydraulic operation on that old channel for several years with discouraging results. The old ditch and pipelines are still visible along the lower mountain slope.

Mr. Johnson reported that the old channel on the Wiebel property was drilled in 1938, under supervision of an engineer by name of Jones. The drilling was done by a man named Edwards. Depth of channel is said to be 90 feet, with "good values" reported on bedrock. Number of holes drilled was not determined. It would seem obvious that average values from surface to bedrock were too low grade to be of interest.

At most westerly point on longest switchback of Mr. Johnsons trail, at about elevation 2600 which looks down into lower end of Frenchy creek's narrow gulch section, it was pointed out where old time prospector Jim Robinson many years ago found some hi-grade gold-quartz "float" on slope of that creek's right limits. Old cuts are still visible which were put in by Robinson in effort to find the "float's" source, which were unsuccessful.

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The Gilpatrick dike cuts through the area and is said to have been exposed in that vicinity by Robinsons work. The dike is said to be "ribboned" with numerous quartz stringers in that vicinity. Mr. Johnson reports he also has made the effort and spent considerable time trying to locate the source of high-grade "float" found by Robinson without success. He states, however, that in panning the talus and residual material on that slope he usually obtained a few colors in nearly every pan. That ground has never been restaked since Mr. Robinsons death many years ago.

The Gilpatrick dike - traceable for 10 to 12 miles at intervals - is a persistent structure, and is the one with which all gold-quartz occurrences in the district on west side of the hiway are associated. To date, it has not been found in vicinity of the one claim upon which Mr. Johnson has been working and has held for 10 years or more (on Faulted Ridge Mountain).

Mr. Johnson, who has prospected in that district for 20 years, was questioned regarding other ^{old} properties in this region, and commented on the following:-

Oracle Mine. This old property is located on south side of Summit creek, about one mile from hiway at Mile $43\frac{1}{2}$. It was relocated in the 1930's by George Lindsay.

During the mid-30's it was under control of W. E. Dunkle for a few years, during which period an adit was driven (or extended?) 800 feet. The property reverted to Mr. Lindsay when it was dropped by Mr. Dunkle. Prior to World War 2, a production of \$35,000, \$15,000, and \$15,000 was made in their small mill, but it was not learned by whom or whether that production was made in one or several years.

In the early '40s Mr. Lindsay is reported to have suspended operations due to lack of timber available for taking care of the bad ground encountered, and nothing was done upon the property (except for assessment work when that was again required) for 10 years, the owner acquiring a saw-mill in the Moose Pass area and operating it continuously during that period of lumber shortage in the district.

During the past year Mr. Lindsay has been working the property again with one miner, and running the mill one shift a day.

Case and Sands Property. This old prospect, held by Frank Case and Chas. Sands for years, is now owned by Chuck Flynn of Seward. It is located on North side of Summit creek, about one mile from the Oracle. There is a cabin on the property. Mr. Case built and operated an arrastra for a while many years ago, and was located along Summit creek.

Dan McMillan Property. This old property is located on hiway side of mountain on south side of Slate creek within a half mile of the Hiway near Mile $42\frac{1}{2}$, and he built and operated an arrastra for a short period; remains of the latter are said to be still ~~present~~ evident.

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Mr. McMillan was one of 5 men who were killed in the Lynx creek snowslide in the late 30's. Since then the property has remained open for location.

Quarrelli Prospect. This old low grade gold-quartz property is located on Donaldson creek. Located in the early 1900's by Mr. Quarrelli development work was limited to surface trenching. Held by him for many years, no one has been interested in it sufficiently to relocate it since his death 25 to 30 years ago.

Mile 16. Mr. Johnson mentioned an old gold-quartz property at Mile 15 or 16 on the Alaska Railroad. A Tramline was built from the mine to the old Alaska Northern Railway siding and an unknown tonnage was shipped to a smelter in the states. The property has been abandoned for many years.

Pass Creek Ag-Pb Prospect. This prospect was discovered by Al Peel (now 87) and a partner by name of Iverson in the early 1900's, and held by them for number of years. It is described as being in area north of Fresno creek and south of Pass creek. Work done upon it is said to have been limited to surface trenching. Total values in silver and lead are said to average \$7.50 per ton. This probably same prospect Fred Henton mentioned as having values up to \$100/in silver (in picked samples). Widths or extent of these showings are not known. The property has been abandoned for many years.

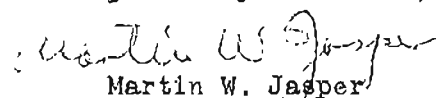
Bear Creek Ag-Pb Prospect. A "big stringer" of silver and lead is said to occur on Bear creek in the Hope district. No information was obtained from Mr. Johnson regarding values, widths or lateral extent. The Clark Brothers are said to be familiar with the occurrence; they live at Hope. Dallas Newall (Spenard) is reported to have looked at it, and advised Johnson it was 4 feet wide. No work has been done upon it.

Hershey & Swetman Groups. The two gold-quartz properties are now held by Homer Bow, who acquired them from Mrs. Swetman. Mr. Bow is now a union official and has had little time to devote to those two projects. These two claim groups are located near head of Palmer creek in the Hope district.

Cub Creek Au-qtz Prospect. "Doc" Nearhouse, merchant at Hope, is reported to have a "promising" gold-quartz prospect on Cub creek in the Hope district. Is saving it "for the rainy day". Presumably has not been doing much if any work upon it, and it seems a question as to whether he has it located, as I have not run across Proof of Labor Notices in the Seward Redorders office.

Leaving Bill Johnsons place at Mile 54 at 5:15 PM I returned to Anchorage at 7:45 PM evening of September 15, 1956.

Respectfully submitted,


Martin W. Jasper

Territorial Mining Engineer

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