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TERRITORY OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF MINES

JUNEAU, ALASKA

October 22, 1952

ITINERARY REPORT

TO: Phil R. Holdsworth, Commissioner of Mines

FROM: James A. Williams, Associate Mining Engineer

SUBJECT: Field trip of James A. Williams and Arthur E. Glover through the Hyder and Ketchikan Precincts, September 15 to 29, 1952.

The chief purposes of the subject field trip were to examine the Mountain View property near Hyder owned by Arthur Moa and Robert Novatney's gold lode prospect at Helm Bay.

Sept. 15: Juneau to Ketchikan via Alaska Coastal Airlines. Joined Glover in Ketchikan. Ketchikan to Hyder via Ellis Airlines charter.

At Hyder, we contacted the USGS Trace Elements Unit men, Joe Houston and Robert Velikanje, who were there with the MV SWAN II, a boat borrowed from the Bureau of Mines. They had finished their work in that area and were planning to leave for Ketchikan the following morning, but agreed to wait until our work was finished (unless it developed that we would have to be there several days)in order that we might be able to accompany them back to Ketchikan. It developed that the remainder of this trip was made with the USGS men on the SWAN II.

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Sept. 16: Examined Arthur Moa's Mountain View property. Were accompanied by Robert Velikanje, USGS geologist.

It had been reported that Mr. Moa had been doing some work on his property, but there was very little recent work in evidence. We checked over the whole property for radioactivity as had Houston and Velikanje before us, but found nothing of possible commercial importance. A Model MX-5 Beckman radiation detector was used. The USGS men are of the opinion that there is nothing now exposed that is more than 0.01% eU unconcentrated, and not sufficient of that to be concentrated to a commercial concentrate. As a result of the Department investigation, Mr. Glover and the writer are also of this opinion. It appears that most of the highest grade spots are of the order of 0.006 to 0.008% eU. The USGS report will conclude that further radiometric investigation here is not warranted.

The Canyon Vein was inspected and found to be a large vein, possibly twenty feet wide, of quartz and granodiorite, and barren-appearing. It was reported that this was where the richest radioactive samples came from, and Moa did have some high grade samples, but we could find high grade indications only in occasional small pods. It has been found that the radioactive material from this vein can be concentrated into a fairly high grade concentrate, but it is believed that there is not enough of it to develop any tonnage. W. S. West, USGS, found a sample here during a previous season that was 0.009% eU, and he concentrated it to 0.398%. Even on the high grade samples that the owner has found, one has to turn them about to get the "hot spot" next to the tube for a high reading. The Canyon Vein needs to be developed more, and then channel-sampled for other mineralization. Sample JW-52-36 was taken of some small stringers in the footwall where no sampling had been done before. The sample was determined by Glover to contain no radioactivity, no scheelite, and a trace each of gold and silver.

The Silver Falls Vein also needs further development before an estimate can be made of its worth.

In the underground workings, a few good scheelite showings were seen in the Gray Copper Vein by the use of a mineralight. A green fluorescent mineral was also noted, samples of which were taken by the USGS men for identification. It was largely a coating and appeared to have been created or deposited after the tunnel had been driven. The deposition is probably still progressing. Phosphorescence was also shown by this mineral.

The surface showings of the Gray Copper Vein were also inspected, and this vein is considered to be the only fair possibility of there being commercial ore on the property. This possibility is scheelite. The vein is reported to be similar to that of the nearby Riverside Mine and it strikes in the right direction to be a possible extension of the Riverside Vein. The Bureau of Mines did some development work and sampling during the war on this vein and their results show rather low values. This vein should be traced and exposed to the property line, or as far as possible, to determine its possibilities better.

At the discretion of the Commissioner of Mines, the Department could go back to the property next year, preferably during June, when the weather is usually best, and do some of the above mentioned prospecting and extensive channel sampling, and go over the surface showings at night with a mineralight.

Mr. Moa wishes the Department to promote the Mountain View property at any possible opportunity. A brief separate report will be prepared at a later date.

Inquiries were made of the Riverside Mine and it was learned that no work had been done there this year and that there was no watchman or persons at the mine. Since there was no definite work needed there and in addition the USGS men were waiting to take us back to Ketchikan, it was decided to forego seeing the Riverside at this time.

Active prospectors in the Hyder District besides Mr. Moa were reported to be as follows:

Ray Snider on the 96 Group between Salmon River and Texas Creek.

"Bonus Nick" Bankovich near the head of Texas Creek on the north slope of Hyder Lead Mountain. Reported to have made a new lead discovery.

Paul Meager, general prospecting in the district.

Al Phillips and Company on the Marietta Property, reported good lead-zinc.

Charles Fehring on the SE side of the Riverside Property, where he has two patented claims.

Sept. 17: Hyder to Tongass Island.

Sept. 18: Tongass Island to Ketchikan.

Sept. 19: Ketchikan to Helm Bay. The USGS men became interested in the Department's Helm Bay project (examination of Novatney's prospect) and decided to accompany us on the trip and examination.

Sept. 20: Examined Robert Novatney's gold lode prospect.

Novatney's prospect is on the west side of Helm Bay on Gold Mountain at an elevation of about 1450 feet by aneroid. It is on the Miller Ledge and Lode Claim No. 1. The geology consists of rather narrow quartz veins running through two varieties of steeply dipping soft schist, which are in a shear zone, but the mineralization is in the schist as well as in the quartz. The pyrites which carry the gold can be seen nearly everywhere in the schist. Seven channel samples, JW-52-37 through 43, were taken and the exposures were mapped. All samples show low values.

Mr. Novatney has done considerable hand work in opening up this ground and is to be commended for his persistence. He was advised as to the best way to proceed from there, and intended to work for three more weeks this fall, weather permitting. He promised to bring samples of any new exposures to the Department when he comes in this fall. A separate report on this property will be prepared by the writer at a later date.

Besides the USGS men, Glover and the writer were accompanied on this examination by Mr. Harry Townsend, mining geologist for Anaconda, who happened to be at Helm Bay to examine the same prospect in the interests of his company. Results of his sampling, assayed in the states, have been received and agree quite closely with the Department results.

Sept. 21: Helm Bay to Ketchikan.

Sept. 22: At Ketchikan.

Met Mr. H. Y. Kato of the West Coast Orient Company, whose concern is interested in the possibility of mining the iron at the Jumbo deposit on Prince of Wales Island. He was expecting some metallurgists and geologists on the following day who were to accompany him to the Jumbo property to make an examination. Mr. Kato was not familiar with the property and had hired Earl Fosse of Ketchikan as a consultant for the project at an earlier date. Mr. Fosse now found himself unable to accompany the party because of other work commitments, and Mr. Kato came to the writer to inquire whether the writer could guide the party and otherwise assist them at the Jumbo. Not having been to the property, the writer could be no help as a guide or consultant other than to quote from reports that Kato already had. Harry Townsend was located, however, and introduced to Mr. Kato. Townsend was able to give some useful information, but would not consider going with him to the property as a guide for lack of time. Mr. Kato was assured that if there was any way in which the Department could help this or other projects along, he was to feel free to request assistance.

Sept. 23: Ketchikan to Exchange Cove, Prince of Wales Island.

Salmon Bay was the destination, but it provides an insecure anchorage and stormy weather was approaching, so it was considered advisable to anchor in Exchange Cove instead. Exchange Cove is eight or ten miles south of Salmon Bay. Salmon Bay is on the northeast part of Prince of Wales Island at geographical coordinates 133°10' W longitude and 56°18' N latitude.

Sept. 24-25: Stormbound in Exchange Cove.

Sept. 26: Exchange Cove to Salmon Bay and return. Accompanied and assisted USGS men in radiometric work in vicinity of Salmon Bay in effort to locate spot from which a high grade sample was taken by a prospector.

Some time ago, a prospector (identity uncertain) submitted a radioactive sample to Glover, who sent it to Helmuth Wedow who had it assayed in Washington, D. C. where it was found to be 0.13% eU. This was richer than anything found thus far in the Salmon Bay area, and the Trace Elements crew was asked to return to the area where the sample was supposed to have come from, according to the prospector,

and search for more of the same. Using a standard MX-5 Beckman Geiger counter and a Victoreen counter with a gang tube mounted on a packboard, the area was traversed thoroughly with no results. One small radioactive vein was found that had missed attention before, but it was not of sufficiently high percentage to be of commercial interest. It was of the same material as the other Salmon Bay radioactive occurrences. Two small samples of rock containing parisite, a rare earth mineral, were picked up in the area.

A short trip was made to nearby Pitcher Island to acquaint the writer with the Paystreak and Marker Veins, which are the highest in eU so far found in the vicinity. A sample of the Marker vein was obtained.

The weather was again turning bad and a storm warning was being broadcast, so a return to Exchange Cove was made rather than travelling north that evening.

Sept. 27: Exchange Cove to Wrangell.

Sept. 28: Wrangell to Taku Harbor.

Sept. 29: Taku Harbor to Juneau.

Respectfully submitted,

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Figure 1. Radioactive zone or vein, vicinity of Salmon Bay.

Figure 2. Small gash veins containing rare earth minerals, vicinity of Salmon Bay.

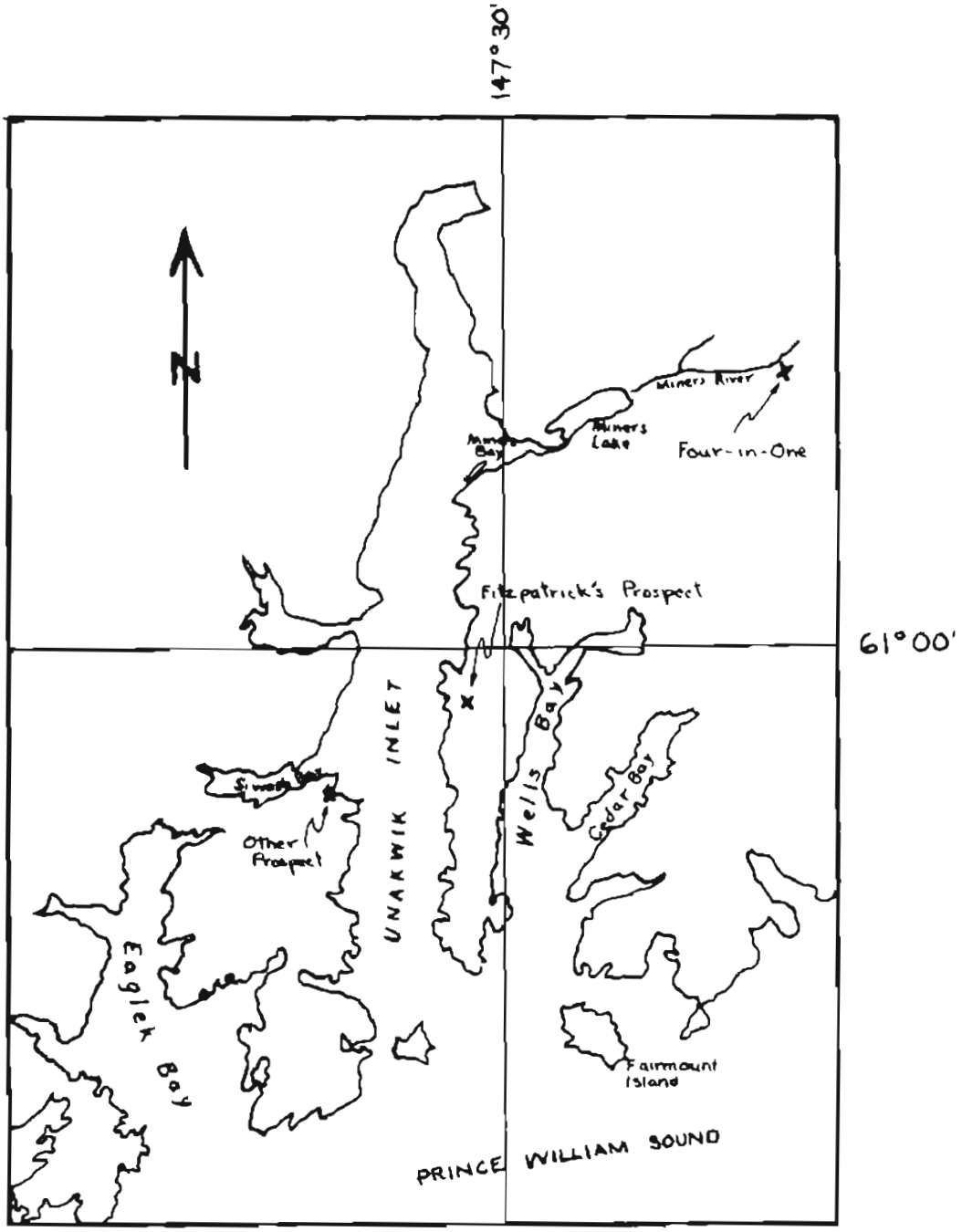

Figure 8. Locations of Fitzpatrick's two prospects and the Four-in-One prospect.

Map adapted from U.S.G.S. quadrangles.

Scale: 1 inch equals 4 miles.