

IR 131-1

TERRITORY OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF MINES
COLLEGE, ALASKA

November 26, 1951

ITINERARY REPORT

TO: Leo H. Saarela, Commissioner of Mines, Juneau, Alaska
FROM: Robert H. Saunders, Associate Mining Engineer, College, Alaska
SUBJECT: Itinerary Report of Robert H. Saunders, Associate Mining Engineer, for the Period September 7, 1951 to September 18, 1951.

This trip was made primarily to examine a copper prospect at the request of Mr. R. L. Krautter.

September 7: By Pacific Northern Airlines from Anchorage to Kodiak.

September 8: By Bob Hall Air Service from Kodiak to Sitkalidak Island.

At Sitkalidak Island I met R. E. Krautter and Nels Christiansen of the Peninsula Exploration Co. The two men operate a cold storage plant on Sitkalidak Island; they buy fish from the local fishermen, keep the fish for a few days until a cannery tender comes to the island, and then resell the fish to the cannery tender. Their business seems to be a major part of the economy of Old Harbor and vicinity.

IR 131-8

Kodiak 131

September 9: At Sitkalidak Island and Old Harbor, Kodiak Island.

R. E. Krautter and Nels Christiansen found it necessary to make a trip to Old Harbor to purchase supplies, so I accompanied them. We made the trip across Sitkalidak Straits (about one and one-half miles) in a small fishing boat owned by Krautter and Christiansen. Old Harbor is a community of about one hundred people; most of them are Aleuts. There is no gainful occupation other than fishing.

We returned to Sitkalidak Island in the evening.

September 10: At Sitkalidak Island.

We had planned on taking the fishing boat through Sitkalidak Straits and into Amee Bay on the northwest side of Sitkalidak Island, but a strong wind from the southwest blowing through the Straits delayed our trip.

A cannery tender, the Masilof, arrived and remained moored at the dock overnight.

September 11: At Sitkalidak Island.

The wind was still blowing, but the Kasilof, which was larger and more seaworthy than Krautter's fishing boat, sailed for Kodiak. R. I. Krautter and I tied a skiff to the stern of the Kasilof and traveled on the Kasilof to the northernmost point of land on Sitkalidak Island. On the north side of the island, Sitkalidak Straits was sheltered from the southwest wind, and we were able to row into Ameer Bay.

Krautter and Christiansen had previously established a tent camp near the mouth of Jack Creek, which empties into the cove at the west side of the entrance to Ameer Bay. In the evening we visited the copper outcrop nearest to camp and returned to camp for the night.

The upper part of Jack Creek flows along a contact; on the left limit there are granitic igneous rocks; on the right limit there are hard, fine-grained sediments, probably argillite. The copper showings are small fractures filled with chalcopyrite in the sedimentary rocks. The property will be described in more detail in a separate report.

September 12: At Sitkalidak Island.

We examined outcrops in the valley of Jack Creek and its tributaries.

September 13: At Sitkalidak Island.

We climbed to the top of the ridge that lies between Ameer Bay and the valley of Jack Creek. After examining outcrops along the ridge top, we circled the head of Jack Creek and walked back to the cold storage plant.

September 14: At Sitkalidak Island.

I planned on returning to Kodiak, but transportation was not available.

September 15: Returned to Kodiak via Bob Hall Air Service.

September 16: At Kodiak. Weather prohibited flying.

September 17: By Pacific Northern Airlines from Kodiak to Anchorage.

There are no producing mines in the vicinity of Kodiak. The U. S. Commissioner's record shows that in 1949 Fred S. Wilmans staked a group of placer claims for pumice at Dakarok Bay on the Alaska Peninsula. John Gibbons staked a placer claim for gold on the outskirts of the town of Kodiak, but the Commissioner said that a few people living in Kodiak had expressed the opinion that the land had less value for mining than it had for other purposes. I talked to John Gibbons, and he was not enthusiastic about the possibility of developing a placer mine on the claim. He thought someone intended to appropriate the land for subdivision into building lots, and he said he would take no action to prevent them from doing so. He was, however, quite enthusiastic about the possibility of finding a deposit of mica on Kodiak Island. He did not know about the services offered to prospectors by the Department of Mines, so after returning to Fairbanks I mailed him an information circular.

Kodiak 131

The only other claims recorded recently at Kodiak are the copper claims on Sitkalidak Island and another group of claims staked by the Peninsula Exploration Co. at Agripenia Bay on the Alaska Peninsula. R. E. Krautter sent several samples from Agripenia Bay to the College Assay Office. At the time of my visit he had not received the returns from those samples, but I found after I returned to Fairbanks that they were very low grade. The Peninsula Exploration Co. has been formed by the following men: Raymond L. Krautter, Nels Christiansen, Henry Nesseth, Robert von Scheele, Tom von Scheele, Alfred Torgranson, and Don Petacchi. The group plans to prospect on Kodiak and adjacent islands and on the Alaska Peninsula.

Kodiak 131

R. E. Krautter told me that coal has been found in four places in the vicinity:

- (1) on the beach on the northeast side of Ocean Bay, which is on the east side of Sitkalidak Island,
- (2) on a point of land between Rolling Bay and Black Point at the south end of Sitkalidak Island,
- (3) on the southeast side of Maguyak Bay on Kodiak Island, and
- (4) on Sitkinak Island off the southwest end of Kodiak Island.

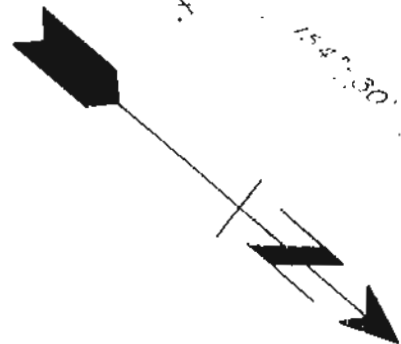
KX 136-1

G. C. Martin, in U. S. G. S. Bulletin 542 on page 136, quotes an earlier U. S. G. S. Report (Bulletin 259 by R. W. Stone) describing a coal outcrop on Sitkinak Island: "A number of coal seams, one of which is said to be 10 to 12 ft thick, stand vertically in a bluff 20 ft high." The report further states that the deposit is "somewhat limited" in extent. R. L. Krautter thought that the coal beds he had seen were too narrow to be mined.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert H. Saunders
Robert H. Saunders
Associate Mining Engineer

Scale: 1" = 4.9 Nautical Mi. approx.



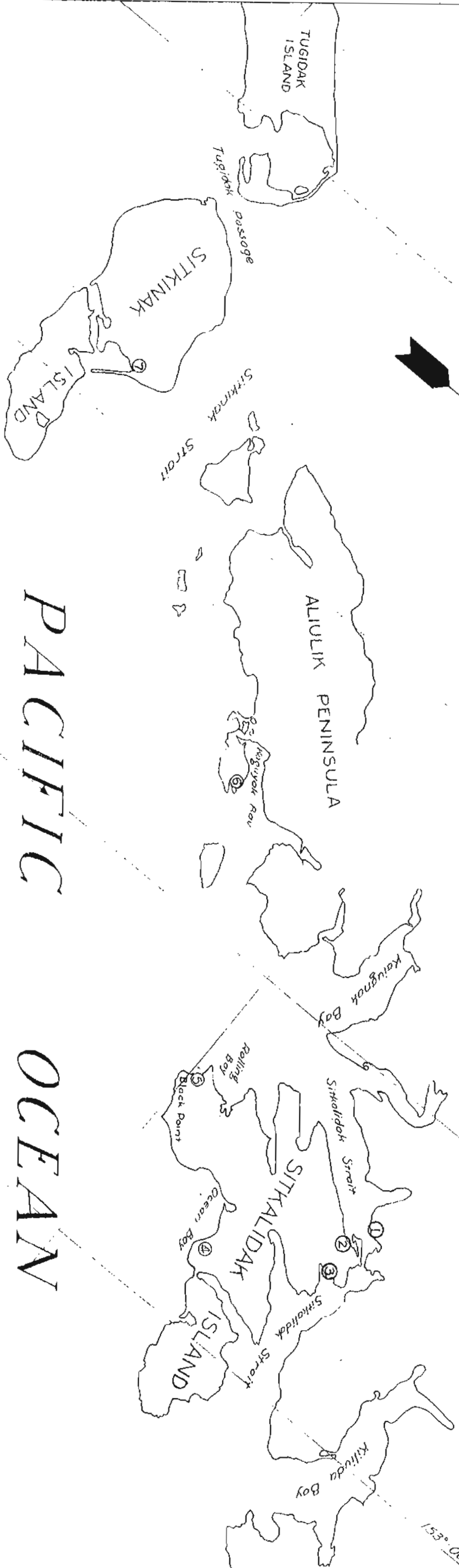
154° 30'

57° 00'

154° 00'

153° 30'

153° 00'



PACIFIC OCEAN

KODIAK ISLAND

LEGEND

- ① - Village of Old Harbor.
- ② - Cold storage plant.
- ③ - Mouth of Jack Creek.
- ④, ⑤, ⑥, ⑦ - Reservoirs and drainage.

TERRITORY OF ALASKA
 DEPARTMENT OF MINES
 SITKALIDAK ISLAND
 & VICINITY
 Traced from U.S.C. & G.S. Chart No.
 8556
 By R.H. Saunders, Assoc. Min. Engr.
 October, 1951