

TERRITORY OF ALASKA  
DEPARTMENT OF MINES  
JUNEAU, ALASKA

IR 195-3

Report of Investigations by Howard L. Fowler  
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in the Ketchikan-Myder Mining Precincts, Alaska  
May 23 - July 14, 1949

May 23 - Juneau to Ketchikan

May 24 - at Ketchikan

May 25 - Ketchikan to Hollis. Visited Dawson Mine on Harris River. Dawson has milled approximately 125 cars of ore. Expects to mill about 300 cars for the season. Dawson has acquired a partner at the property named Earl Simpson. Simpson is not a miner, and is working alone in a flat dipping slope with a heavy hanging wall. Insufficient timber is being used. The men were advised to take precautions, but they apparently felt there was no hazard. /

KX-119-8

May 26 - Attempted to locate the Stella Prospect on Clark Bay. The old camp buildings were found, but no tunnel was located. Evidence of a slide near the buildings pointed to the possibility that the portal was now buried beneath the slide debris.

KX-119-77

May 27 - Weathered in.

May 28 - To South Arm of Chalmers Sound.

May 29 - An attempt was made to visit the Moonshine Prospect, however, the snow was still too deep, and it was not possible to examine the property.

May 30 - Weathered in.

May 31 - Return to Ketchikan.

June 1 - At Ketchikan

June 2 - 5 -

Examined the Mahoney Mine on George Inlet. A Brunton-Stape survey was conducted, and an attempt was made to pick up the faulted vein structure. (See map and report by Howard L. Fowler)

KX-125-6

One man, Mr. Van Loore of Ketchikan, was at the property serving as watchman. It is reported that Mr. Robert Browe-Sworas of Vancouver, B. C. plans to work the property in the near future.

June 6 - At Ketchikan

June 7 - To Hyder via Fred McKay.

June 8 - Arrive at Hyder

June 9 - At Hyder

June 10 -

The Riverside Mine was visited. Nine men were employed with five underground. The mill is not in operation because of a lack of ore. Al Kirby is Superintendent. An aerial tramline from the road to the mine is under construction. This will require only several hundred feet of tramline, and will replace the present inefficient system of back packing supplies to the mine. 15-118-41

A check was made underground with a geiger counter with negative results.

A safety check was made of the property and conditions were found to be satisfactory.

June 11 -

A trip was made with Frank Blasher to Thumb Creek to check possible uraninite. However, all that could be found was diorite. The uraninite was most noticeable for its absence.

June 12 - At Hyder

June 13 -

In company with Al Phillips and Frank Blasher, a trip was made to the West Fork of Texas Creek to a point opposite the Hidden Glacier to examine a beryl occurrence that Frank Blasher had found years ago. Mr. Blasher was unable to locate the occurrence in question, and there is some doubt if there actually is such an occurrence.

The Santu was also visited the same day. Mr. Blasher thought he had found uraninite in the area, but on investigation none could be found. However, a small amount of native copper was seen lining cracks in slate on the Salmon Glacier side of the divide. Some evidence of mineralization was seen along the ridge above the glacier, but was inaccessible with the equipment we carried. The Salmon Glacier itself has receded several hundred 15-119-44

paras in the past several years. This is evident also with other glaciers in the area, and it might be well for some added prospecting to be conducted in the areas of recession.

June 14 -

A visit was made to the Mountain View Property in company with Mr. Arthur Hoar of Hader. The purpose of the visit was to check the area for radioactivity. With the small blinker type counter, the background count averaged about 15 per minute. The count jumped to between 28 and 30 on an outcrop a fourth mile above camp and on Fish Creek. Examination of other outcrops in the near area showed counts up to twice the background count. Tests underground normally should show a reduction from a surface background count due to shielding effects of the overlying rock mass from cosmic activity, however, at the Mountain View underground tests showed a strong rise in count. At Station 17 / 35' (U.S.B.M. Map) a sample was cut across a 32 inch vein width with a count of between 50 and 60. At Station 25 W (U.S.B.M. Map) a sample was cut across a width of 22 inches having a count between 70 and 75. The vein width was actually greater but only 22 inches was exposed. Other high counts were obtained in various parts of the underground workings. The samples cut were checked at the portal and the high counts substantiated. Later, the samples were taken to Ketchikan, and were again tested. At Ketchikan, the samples were negative.

Mr. B. D. Stewart was informed of the situation and of the writers belief that one of three things was the cause of the counter activity:

1. Counter out of adjustment.
2. A mass effect present at the property from the granitic intrusions in the area.
3. Segregations of radioactive material present in the vein, but by chance, none was included in the samples.

Recommendation was made for a recheck at the property with a different and more sensitive counter. (See "Visit of Mountain View on June 29, 1949" by Howard L. Fowler)

June 15 -

The Premier Mine in British Columbia was visited as a courtesy visit, and to familiarize the writer with an ore occurrence of major proportions in the district. The property is just re-opening after its closure by the C. I. C. United Mine, Mill, & Smelter Workers strike of 1948. The company has decided to abandon its 15 mile aerial tranline, and to truck its concentrates out in the future. Additional cells have been added to the mill circuit for the recovery of zinc in the ore which

has heretofore not been saved.

A return was made to Ketchikan in the evening via Fred McKay.

June 16 - Arrive at Ketchikan.

June 17 - 20 - at Ketchikan.

June 21 -

To Chickamin River to examine prospects of Mr. Al Wolfe.

June 22 -

Examined quartz body above Coho Creek. The body was of bull quartz with no evidence of mineralization.

June 23 - 24 - Weathered in.

June 25 - To Ketchikan via Wolfe boat.

June 26 - Weathered in at Walker's Cove.

June 27 - Arrive at Ketchikan.

June 28 - To Hyder

June 29 -

A re-examination was made of the Mountain View underground workings with a Beta-Gamma Survey Meter in place of the Elinker type counter used on the visit of June 14, 1949. The Beta-Gamma Survey Meter has a much higher sensitivity range than the Elinker type counter, and as a consequence, gave a background count of 35 for the area as against 15 for the Elinker counter. It became apparent that high counts could be obtained underground regardless of whether the counter was being used on vein material, on wall rock adjacent to the vein, or in cross-cuts some distance from the vein. This indicated a phenomena termed "mass effect". However, the highest counts were obtained over vein material and several samples were cut at points where the count was highest. This count was substantially above 200 per minute but was difficult to count with accuracy. These samples showed no reaction when checked in Ketchikan or when checked in Juneau. K-120-5780

Results of these preliminary tests were turned over to the Geological Survey Trace Elements Division and a two man crew headed by a Mr. West later spent considerable time at the property. They corroborated the findings of the Territorial Department of Mines, but did not reveal their final conclusions.

June 30 - Arrive at Ketchikan.

July 1 - 2 - at Ketchikan.

July 3 -

To Hollis on Prince of Wales Island for a transit survey of Wendell Dawson's Mine. Frank Castleberry was hired as an assistant.

July 4 - 7 -

At Dawson Mine conducting a transit survey of workings. Map is on file at Department of Mines Office at Juneau.

July 8 - Return to Ketchikan.

July 9 -

To Mahoney Mine at request of Mr. Van Moore, watchman for the property. Mr. Moore was of the opinion that he had located a structure of major interest in determining the direction of movement of the faulted vein. The work of Mr. Van Moore at the property has proved to be of major assistance to the Department in its work there. KX-120-6

July 10 - Return to Ketchikan.

July 11 - 12 - at Ketchikan.

July 13 -

To Silvas Lake to examine the Beaver Falls Tunnel. (See Memorandum Report to B. D. Stewart by Howard M. Fowler) This is the second year Mr. Erickson has been on this job, and although promising completion of work the first year, it will take him at least a third year to complete it. A report from Mr. John Weir of the Ketchikan Public Utilities showed that Mr. Erickson still had 27 or 28 feet to lower the lake at the completion of his second year.

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