

TERRITORY OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF MINES
FIELD STATION AND ASSAY OFFICE
Box 657 Nome, Alaska
October 10, 1956

ITINERARY REPORT

TO: Phil R. Holdsworth, Commissioner of Mines

FROM: Martin W. Jasper, Territorial Mining Engineer

SUBJECT: Field trip covering period from August 10 to 25th, 1956, inclusive. Including Lazy Mountain silver prospect at request of Harvey Anderson, Little Susitna area, Wasilla Records office, Houston gas-oil drilling, and Slate creek operation - latter at request of Hobb Enterprises.

August 10, 1956. Left Anchorage at 7 PM in personal car. At Palmer arranged for Lazy Mountain investigation August 12th.

August 11th. Forenoon at Commissioners office examining Mining Recording records. Records of passing interest noted were:-

1. No. 1 Black Center & No. 1 White lode claims, situated on Clear creek, a Wolverine creek tributary. Located by Frank Clark in July '53 but not recorded until March '55 these are possibly reputed copper locations upstream from Lazy Mountain, mentioned by Harvey Anderson. Kx 85-251
2. Three Center Fan and one Drainage placer claims, situated on right limit of Knik Glacier, two miles below Knik Glacier in March 1955. Kx 85-249
3. Proof of Labor filed by Lynn and Hazel Crosby in Sept. '55, covering 30 placer claims on Caribou creek. Property leased to Wes and Victoria Edwards on June 14, '55 for 10 year period. It was recently reported that the lease was dropped early this season. Kx 85-4
4. Proof of Labor filed by Basic Building Products, Inc., for 14 gypsiferous mineral claims on Sheep Mountain, and for 3 shale "placer" claims at Mile 67 on July 29, 1955. Kx 85-9
5. Proof of Labor filed by Ben Hitchcock on 6 placer claims covering Caribou creek from Hiway bridge upstream, filed Sept. 21, 1955. Kx 85-33
6. Proof of Labor for Discovery placer claim, located on Matanuska river, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile south of Mile 63 on Glen Hiway. Joseph E. Richardson, owner. Recorded Sept. 29, 1955. Kx 85-49
7. Location Notice for Black Bear and Black Bear Center lode claims, filed on Sept. 4, 1955 by Frank Clark. Both described as "Lode Iron", and located on Clear creek, a tributary of Wolverine creek. Kx 85-251
8. Coal Lease recorded by Hank Edwardson. Leased to Paul Onlin and Rudolph Sterbenz (co-partners). Coal prospecting permit No. 022803, leased for 4 year period. Recorded May 22, 1956.

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9. Sheep Mountain Nos 1, 2, 3, and 4 placer claims located in May 1951 by Chris Ida Rees and Audrey I. Cutting. Recorded June 28, 1956. Claims situated opposite Sheep Mountain Lodge in an area not considered to ~~be~~ have any potential value as placer ground. K 85-19426

10. Proof of Labor recorded by Knute Nordgren for the Star Group (Discovery No. 1 Above & No. 1 Below Creek claims, and Great Hope and Paystreak Bench claims) placer claims, approximately 5 miles above confluence of Alfred and Caribou creeks. Located on Alfred creek. Recorded March 26, 1956. K 85-47

11. Ralph Browne located AMCO Nos 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 lode claims (for copper and other minerals) on July 15, 1956 and recorded July 21, 1956. These are doubtless relocations of claims originally located by him in 1953 (or '54) on the Little Susitna copper occurrence. K 85-62

During afternoon trip was made to Little Susitna Lodge area to determine snow conditions on north slopes of copper area in upper reaches of Lone Tree Gulch for Ralph Browne, who had arranged for two Newmont Mining Company mining engineers to examine that area the following week. K 85-62

While in that area several hours were spent with Ed Egland and Miles Rice who were prospecting a copper-molybdenite occurrence one mile north of the Snowbird mine lower camp. A number of claims were planned to be staked during next few days, and tentative arrangements were made to examine the showings later in the season. Specimen of the mineralization were taken and sent to Anchorage office for analysis.

Returned to Palmer for the night.

August 12th. The day was spent on investigation of the reputed silver-gold discoveries on Lazy Mountain with Harvey Anderson and wife. No trenching had been done by them. Fairly abundant "float" from narrow quartz stringers for hundred yards or so along the ridge crest, which carried traces of malachite and few disseminated sulfides were noted, which was claimed to be same material from which they had obtained a 60 oz silver assay from the College Assay office. My samples showed no appreciable values. There is an old trench (probably dug 30 years or more ago) on ridge crest which had not been cleaned out, but material on its bank indicated presence of a number of narrow quartz stringers. Grab sample taken here showed no value. K 85-265

Returned to Palmer for the night.

August 13th. Met Ralph Browne and the two Newmont engineers - Richard F. Murphy and Roy Beckelhymer (?) - at 7:30 AM, Little Susitna Lodge, as prearranged. Spent an hour and a half discussing the Lone Tree Gulch (Little Susitna) copper occurrences with them. It is understood that they spent 3 or 4 days on examination of the occurrences. (It has been re- K 85-62

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ported that a helicopter was based at Little Susitna Lodge in early September for day or two, and it is believed that it was used by a geologist - possibly a Newmont man? - for a study of that area, but to date that has not been confirmed).

From this area a trip was made to the oil-gas well drilling operation at Houston. There it was learned that one hole was stopped at 3250 foot depth and the drill rig left over the hole. A Schlumberger crew had made a survey of hole a short time previously, and it is understood that the hole will probably be deepened.

A new hole being drilled by a rotary rig was down to 1400 feet (depth obtained was asked to be kept confidential). A "gas pocket" encountered a few days previously had caused some excitement. A little gas was still showing, and a "pressure" test was being run at time of visit.

Several hours were spent at the Wasilla Mining Records office that afternoon.

These records revealed a marked renewal of interest in the Valdez Creek area, with following being some of new locations recorded:-

1. The Helen No.s 1, 2, 3, 4 placer claims located June 24, 1956 by Crockett Metcalf. Situated on Valdez creek, 2 miles from Gold Hill. The Helen No. 1 adjoins the No. 5 Valdez Creek placer claim held by Earl Bott. Valdez Creek No. 1 and "X" placer claims on Valdez creek at mouth of Timberline were located July, 1, 1956 by L. Coffield. The above claims, together with others previously located, are planned to be grouped for a "joint venture", with plans to drill the ground this fall and place dragline on the property next year if results justify. Crockett Metcalf appears to be the "prime mover" in this project. K 67-51
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Additional placer claims located and included in above venture, are:-

Valdez Creek No.s 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, two and a half miles above mouth of Valdez creek, by L. Coffield, Lyle & Earl Bott in July, 1956.

Yvonne No.s 1, 2, 3, and 4 placer claims staked by Barney and Yvonne Locke in July 1956. Situated about 1 mile westerly from Gold Hill on west limit of Valdez creek. K 67-15

2. The Black Creek No.s 3, 4, 5, and 6 Placer Claims were located in May 1956 by L. H. Coffield, Lyle and Earl Bott. Situated on Black creek, tributary to Eldorado and latter tributary to Valdez creek.

3. The Timberline No.s 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14 Lode Claims were located in June 1956 along Timberline creek valley by L. Coffield, Lyle and Earl Bott.

The Denali "X" and Denali No.s 3 and 4 Lode Claims were located by Coffield and Botts Brothers in June 1956 in Timberline creek valley.

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Proof of Labor was noted to have been filed by Joseph and Daniel Richardson on the Pumecite No.s 1 and 2 Placer Claims in June 1956. Location given as 30 Miles from Mile 135 Elen Hiway but in what direction was not given.

Letter dated July 24, 1956 addressed to Fred S. Pettijohn and E. O. Albertson from Don Zellweger was filed for record, relinquishing option held by Alaska Copper Mines on the Kathleen-Margaret copper property on the McLaren River, together with all mineral claims located by Alaska Copper Mines in that area. K 69-4

Lease agreement of E. L. Arnett (25%), Raymond E. Plummer (12.5%), A. B. Smith (37.5%), and Chas. Hallock (25%) to Minor Roop & Company, covering 19 placer claims on Valdez creek, was recorded on June 29, 1956.

It is planned to return to the Wasilla office to make a more thorough study of the Talkeetna and Wasilla precincts records.

August 14th. From Palmer drove to Paxson to make Slate Creek trip scheduled for the next morning. "Browsed" along the hiway but learned of no additional prospecting activity except for:-

1. Al Ghezzi, Sr., had been flown in to area in which he had found the "cobalt" bloom occurrence by Pilot Cleo McMahan. Ghezzi was spending some time at the prospect (in the Rainy creek area). No additional information has been received to date concerning that occurrence.
2. An old copper prospect was reported relocated in McLaren river area, a mile or two beyond the K-M. A number of prospectors had been searching for it for several seasons. No details concerning the occurrence was obtained.

August 15th to 25th. Met by Bob Beck at Paxson morning of the 15th, this period was spent on the Slate creek placer project of Hobb Enterprises.

With heavy rains (and a "flash flood") prevailing since late July, the placer operation had been further delayed by tailings carried downstream from Miller Gulch area, ~~and 30-40~~ 40000 cubic yards of fine talus sliding into the gulch from a left limit ravine about 1000 feet upstream from the area stripped for mining. They were successful in preventing the cut from being filled in by working three D-8's continuously for 3 days in the creek bed keeping the tailings moving on out into the river flat. K 68-31

With the water grade drain filled in for lower half of its length it was estimated the flood period required moving an additional 50- to 60000 cubic yards of material during the period from about July 27 to August 14th.

Mining was started on August 16th, using a 1½ dragline bucket on a "slackline" set-up. From that date up to the 22nd, continuous trouble

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was experienced with "blinding" of grizzly by the abundant fairly coarse wash and boulders. To overcome this trouble mining was suspended most of this period to change spacing of grizzly rails; by "trial and error" a satisfactory solution was made by August 24th. Suggestions and assistance was given them on this problem.

As advice on "clean-up" procedures was a principal reason for my visiting the property, a clean-up was made on August 22nd of the 4 head sluice boxes. Volume of material put through the sluice at intervals during the preceding 7 days was limited to an estimated 500 to 600 cubic yards, as mining did not cover more than 20% of time that week due to grizzly problem. This gravel was taken from top of the 12 to 15 feet of the pay horizon, and values were largely thin, flat gold that probably was not saved in gravels mined in the early days upstream, and had been carried to lower end of Slate creek gulch during flood periods since then.

The abundance of heavy concentrates suggests that clean-ups will have to be made more frequently than is the general practice. To save on cleanup time in the future the plan of pulling riffles in upper boxes and shovelling material into a narrow sluice set alongside will probably be followed.

The amalgamation plate was cleaned and reconditioned, and the gold room generally prepared for use.

With the Slate creek project behind schedule, Mr. Beck's plan (and request) to make a trip to the Middle Fork Mining Company's ground, situated 8 miles to the west of Slate creek, and make a study of that area with undersigned, that trip had to be cancelled.

August 25th. Returning to car parked at Paxson that noon arrived in Anchorage at 9 PM, stopping at number of points on the way.

Information received latter part of September reports that the Slate creek operation finally got underway few days after my departure, and that in 15 days of steady operation approximately \$75,000 was produced, with an additional undetermined amount of fine gold to be recovered from the fine concentrates. This report has not been confirmed as yet by the operators, but on basis of calculated values by Goldfields Consolidated following their drilling that section of the property in 1940 it is entirely possible that production may have been made.

Respectfully submitted,

Martin W. Jasper
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Territorial Mining Engineer

AUG 25 1956