

TERRITORY OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF MINES

FIELD STATION AND ASSAY OFFICE
Box 657 NOME, ALASKA

October 9, 1956

ITINERARY REPORT

TO: Phil R. Holdsworth, Commissioner of Mines

FROM: Martin W. Jasper, Territorial Mining Engineer

SUBJECT: Trip to Copper River region July 20 to 26; 1956, to check on mining activities, and to visit placer operation of Hobb Enterprises on Slate, the latter at request of Robert Beck, one of partners in that venture.

July 20, 1956. Leaving Anchorage at 2 PM arrived at Palmer at 3:30. Balance of afternoon was spent going over the Mining Records records. The records showed 6 mineral claims had been located by C. C. Cechowski on south side of Matanuska river on westerly slopes of King Mountain, described as being a mile and half southerly from Mile 74 on the Glan Hiway. Notices described them as copper and other mineral.

Dorothy Saxton

U. S. Commissioner mentioned her interest in finding a buyer for Steve Worbel's claims, located on Glacier Fan Creek, Sheep Mountain, who was in need and whom she felt should be in the Sitka Pioneers Home. Reference to Mr. Worbel's claims suggested a conflict of interests with Barney Locke's claim locations in that same area.

July 21, 1956. Plan to complete study of records in Commissioners office that morning were cancelled as failed to open office that Saturday forenoon.

Tentative plan to examine the reputed silver occurrence on Lazy Mountain was postponed due to stormy weather.

Leaving Palmer at 10:30 AM a half hour stop was made at King Mountain Lodge to check on activities of C. C. Cechowski on south side of Matanuska river. Lodge operator Jack Betts advised he understood there were three or four men presumably trenching on the property, as he heard fairly frequent powder blasts from that direction.

The Bureka oil drilling operation was shut down while waiting setting of cement. There was no one around the rig when stopped for few minutes at 2 PM. At Gakona that evening it was learned there was no radio contact being maintained with Slate creek, and no wheel plane there available for charter. Continued on to Slana and Duffy's with no wheeled planes available along the hiway.

July 22, 1956. Stopped at all trading posts and roadhouses the day before and on the 22nd making inquiry regarding prospecting activities in the region. It was learned that Louis Elmer had gone into upper Slate creek to do assessment work, and a man (name not determined) had gone in with family of three to do assessment work in the Big Four group of placer claims located couple miles above the lower Slate creek camp near the Chestochina Glacier.

Knute Peterson was known to be prospecting in the Shushana district on Bonanza creek. Dave Vietti and partner A. Carlquist of Valdez had spent a

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a month or six weeks in their molybdenum claims in the Rock creek district a few mile off the Nabesna road.

Mr. Turnbull, who had bought Bob Austins interest in Grubstake creek for \$4000.00, was alone on that ill-fated venture, and had found no evidence of the 25 test-pits Austin claimed to have put down last year on that property.

Loren Smith was making plans to take family in to Eagle creek and spend the winter putting down test-pits in his ground there.

Pilot Corky Seger, based at Mile 63 on the Slana-Tok Hiway with a float plane, advised that he was servicing a USGS party in the Capital Mountain area, on north side of Mt. Sanford. The party, composed of Oscar Ferrin, and Henry Schmall, were spending 3 or 4 weeks in that area.

A couple of hours were spent with geologist Kirk Stanley and his assistant Don Pruss, who came out to the hiway from upper Ahtell creek for supplies. Mr. Stanley gave a thumbnail sketch of his activities and findings in that region, and delivered couple boxes of samples to take in for assay.

No work was being done on Fred Bronnicks's gold-quartz prospect located on Ahtell creek.

Driving as far as Mile 89 on Slana-Tok Hiway, no prospectors were reported to have been active in that region the past season. Kirk Stanley and assistant had spent some time in that area on geological reconnaissance.

Returning to Chestochina Vic Rine, operator of that trading post, had no knowledge of Earl Briggs being in the district prospecting his placer ground on the upper reaches of Sinona creek. Mr. Rine mentioned having spent several years prospecting in the McCarthy region, and claimed he had found some magnetite, molydenite, and radioactive occurrences at undisclosed locations. At his request Kirk Stanley was referred to him as one who might be interested to check into them.

Forrest Triber, Road Commission foreman in that area, had no knowledge of prospecting activities in the upper Copper River region other than that above mentioned.

September 23, 1956. In effort to locate wheeled plane for Slate creek trip, encountered more "misinformation" than ever experienced in past. With old phone line along Richardson Hiway from Junction to Paxson and Big Delta abandoned no contacts could be made. Advice at CAA field and Glen Allen ACS office reported no planes based at Paxson, and that Pilot Cleo McMahan, normally based at Meiers Lake, was flying for ARC in Tiekel area.

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At Copper Center it was learned that U. S. Commissioner Carl Edin was outside on vacation. A Mrs. Prather of Glen Allen was Acting Commissioner and had current recording books at her home for day or two.

Mr. Lund, who has been prospecting in the Copper River region with H. G. McWilliams, was contacted at Copper Center. He reported they had spent sometime on the chromite prospect in area near Mile 71-72 Richardson Hiway. E. W. Lundeen of Coronado Copper and Zinc Company had discussed that property with him and planned an investigation of it when his schedule permitted. Mr. Lund was "vague" on questioning him regarding their "follow-up" efforts to locate source of copper "float" and hi-grade pitchblende they had brought in to the Anchorage office early the past season.

Late afternoon and evening was spent in Chitina. Good progress was being made on construction of new airfield 6 miles from town.

"Hearsay" reports of various geological parties in the copper belt were noted.

Bear Creek Mining Company with party of six (including helicopter pilot and mechanic) were then confining their work to the Kennicott area. Information received two weeks ago stated that latter part of season that party spent considerable time on the Hubbard & Elliot property and adjoining area, mapping the area in considerable detail, with helicopter setting crew down at numerous points on the slopes and ridges for stadia readings, and other observations. It is reported they have optioned the property, but that information has not been confirmed.

Anaconda's Wm. Reed spent couple days in Kuskalana-Kotsina area, leaving their geologist, a Mr. Harrod in that section for several weeks.

E. W. Lundeen and two assistants of Coronado Copper and Zinc spent most of season in the Kotsina-Kuskalana region, locating a number of claims on an interesting copper occurrence on Copper creek, tributary of the Kotsina. Lundeen reported examining the old Martin Harrais property on upper Mizina river.

Neil Finnissand and son, prospecting for Coronado, located one claim on the old molybdenum occurrence in the McCarthy area. Most of the season was spent by Finnissands brushing out a trail to the Falls creek area, below Chitina. That area is reported to be of possible real interest, having favorable geological structures and encouraging mineralization.

Mr. Finnissand mentioned knowledge of low grade copper showings across river from Chitina near mouth of Chitina river. He also mentioned a molybdenite occurrence, reputedly known to Johnny Second Chief of Mendeltna. Opportunity was not given to "run down" these two showings.

"float" Axel Wahlstrom recalled having noted abundant large book white mica during winter freighting 35 or 40 years ago. Located in canyon section on Salmon creek, a Chitina river tributary 40 miles upstream, it is said to be accessible only during "freeze up". Axel never took the time to follow the "float" up the steep slope to its source.

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USGS geologist Seitz and assistant had left the district a few days before, after a period spent in the Kuskalana area. Their next assignment was the tungsten area on Kodiak Island, and copper occurrences on Sitkalidak Island.

Location of the long known molybdenite occurrence on Canyon creek by an agent for Grubstakers Incorporated had created great deal of interest in the Copper River region, and the usual exaggerated accounts were floating around.

(Referring to molybdenite claim located by Finnissand for the Coronado account:- An item of interest mentioned by Axel Walstrom concerning that occurrence was that he had obtained wire gold in panning the residual soil below the vein - or veins - carrying MoS₂ in that area).

September 24, 1956. During forenoon effort was made to contact Acting Commissioner Mrs. Prather at Copper Center and Glen Allen without success.

That afternoon drove to Meiere and found Cleo McMahan was operating from that base but was away for the afternoon. That evening arranged with him fly over the Slate Creek camp with his "float" plane and drop note early the next morning.

September 25, 1956. In answer to note dropped by Pilot McMahan, Bob Beck flew over and picked me up at Paxson at 8 AM. in his personal plane.

It was found that their program was couple weeks behind schedule. A 325 foot by 175 foot area had been stripped at upper end of the drilled section and a long bedrock drain on water grade from Chestochina river valley had been completed to top of ~~pay~~ pay-gravels. This work required moving of an estimated 70,000 cubic yards of barren gravel, which was done with 3 D8's and two 12 cubic yard carryall (pans).

It was expected to have the mining plant set-up within the next week.

As purpose of request for visit was to supervise and instruct on cleanup procedures it was arranged for me to return there August 15th, at which time it was expected they would be ready for the first cleanup.

September 26, 1956. Returned to Paxsons in forenoon in Mr. Beck's plane.

Stopping at McMahan's, Mile 169.5, a specimen of Cobalt Bloom was noted as a "decorative" stone in a gallon jar. Mrs. McMahan reported it had been picked up by Pilot McMahan at some prospectors camp. Advising her its source might be from a deposit of possible economic value, suggestion was left for Pilot McMahan to make effort to locate the occurrence. Several weeks

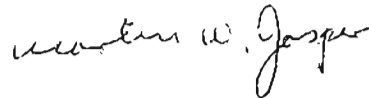
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latter McMahan advised the discovery had been made by Al Ghezzi, Sr., who had not recognized its possible value. He reported that he had taken Mr. Ghezzi back into the area where he had found the outcrop, and that Mr. Ghezzi planned to do some trenching to determine its width, possible extent, and take samples for analysis.

Nothing further has been heard to date concerning that cobalt occurrence.

Several other stops were made along the hiway, returning to Anchorage in personal car at 9 PM, September 26th.

Respectfully submitted,



Martin W. Jasper
Territorial Department of Mines

SEP 27 1956

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