

TERRITORY OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF MINES

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ITINERARY REPORT

TO: Phil R. Holdsworth, 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 1952 Field Season.

May 10 to 13: Fairbanks to Healy and return via the Alaska Railroad to investigate a fire at the Suntrana Mine owned by the Healy River Coal Corporation. A Memorandum Report on this trip has been made.

May 26: To Creighton Mine and return by private vehicle.

The Creighton Mine is operated by Charles Lageration and Vern Jokela. The mine was being pumped out after a shut-down of about one year. Pumping had unwatered the 60-ft level, and the geology of that level was mapped. KX-49-135

June 7 to 14: Fairbanks to Eagle and return via Wien Alaska Airlines.

This trip was made primarily to examine the Fred Jenkins property; a separate report of that examination has been made. The only active mining operators in the Eagle District in 1952 were Otto Amund Hagen and Max Drews. Max Drews worked alone shoveling into sluice boxes on Gravel Gulch, tributary of American Creek, and Hagen worked alone hydraulicking on Fox Creek, tributary of the Seventymile River. William Loffstrom of Great Falls, Montana, was prospecting in the vicinity of Eagle. KX-51-23

While at Eagle I obtained a sample of coal from Fred Jenkins; Jenkins said that the coal came from an outcrop near the mouth of the Nation River. A partial analysis by Lowell Patten showed that the sample contained 2.06% ash, 2.92% sulfur, and 13,959 BTU per pound. Because the sample was partly soluble in carbon tetrachloride and because it gave a tarry odor when burned, Patten considered it to be asphaltum. J. E. Mertie, Jr. describes coal deposits along the Nation River in his report on the Tatonduk-Nation District. KX-37-344

June 23 to July 3: Fairbanks to Kobuk village and return via Wien Alaska Airlines.

This trip was made primarily to examine Rhinehart Berg's prospect on Ruby Creek; a separate report of that examination has been made.

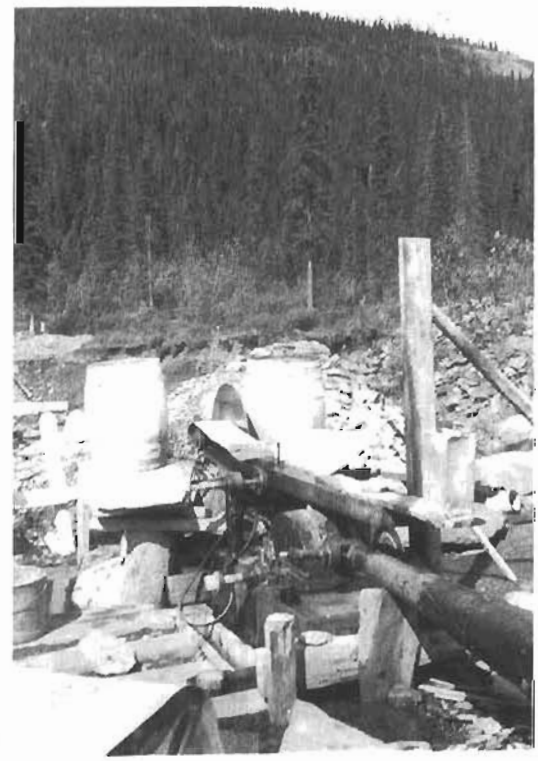
The only active mining operation in the Kobuk area was at the Goodwig and Tronstad hydraulic mine on Dahl Creek. Because of poor health

Shungnak 37

Goodwig remained in Fairbanks during 1952, and Matt Stennes was hired to take his place at the mine. At this property, jade boulders that occur in the gold-bearing gravel are rolled aside and cut into slabs by a water-powered diamond saw. The jade slabs are sold to jewelers in the States and in Alaska.

The market for jade seems to be small, but each year a number of people go into the Shungnak District in search of jade. According to local custom, the discoverer of a jade boulder paints on the boulder his name, the date of discovery, and the estimated weight of the boulder; and other jade hunters recognize his right to ownership of that boulder.

While in the vicinity of Kobuk village, I visited the asbestos property formerly owned by the Arctic Circle Exploration Co. on Asbestos Mountain. A description of the property was included in a letter to Juneau dated July 7, 1952.



Figs. 1 and 2. Diamond saw used on the Goodwig and Tronstad property.



Fig. 3. Water wheel made of oil drums. Formerly used at the Goodwig and Tronstad property to power a saw mill.



Fig. 4. Compressor house on Asbestos Mountain.

July 30 to 31: Fairbanks to Circle and return with J. A. Williams, Territorial Department of Mines and E. H. Beistline, University of Alaska. Transportation was furnished by the University of Alaska.

Before leaving the Fairbanks District we visited the operation of Berg, Tveiten, and Wickstrom on Chatham Creek, tributary of Cleary Creek. The property is owned by Helmer Johnson. Mining was started in 1952. The mechanical equipment used includes a dragline, a bulldozer, and a pump for returning water. A nozzle is used at the head of the boxes. The boxes are of steel, and both longitudinal and transverse steel riffles are used. The crew consists of the three partners, who work one shift per day.

We also visited the property being worked by Mamie Olson on Wolf Creek; this is a dragline-bulldozer operation with an elevated sluice box. The dragline is used to feed the box, and the bulldozer is used for stacking tailings and cleaning bedrock. A nozzle on an hydraulic eccentric is used to wash the gravel into the head of the sluice box. Four men are employed on one shift per day.



Fig. 5. Monument erected on Discovery Claim on Pedro Creek to commemorate Pedro's discovery of gold in the Fairbanks District.

Joe Ragner was prospecting at the old Nordale lode-gold property at the head of Wolf Creek.

Malter Lindgren was prospecting a lode-gold vein on the left limit of Bedrock Creek, tributary of Cleary Creek, on property owned by the Tolovana Mining Co. The property was leased from the Tolovana Mining Co. by Howard Sparks and subleased to Lindgren.

Near the head of Bedrock Creek, Fred Wackwitz has mined and shipped a few tons of ore from open cuts on a narrow lead-antimony-silver vein.

On the way to Circle we stopped at R. V. Watkins property on Faith Creek. Watkins has a bulldozer and sluice plate operation; he uses a nozzle for stacking tailings. The crew consists of three men.

Frasca and Gibson were not operating on Eagle Creek in 1952, having completed the mining of their ground there in 1951. John Frasca was prospecting there, and, late in 1952, he leased from A. A. Zimmerman some property adjacent to the property that he and Gibson have already mined.

Tury Anderson was starting a new operation on Porcupine Creek, tributary of Crooked Creek. We did not visit his property because the road up Porcupine Creek was impassable.

The Deadwood Mining Co. (Wrede Bros.) was starting a new operation on Independence Creek on ground leased from A. A. Zimmerman. They have a dragline-bulldozer operation. They ordinarily use a sluice plate but the amount of clay in the gravel on Independence Creek necessitated using a nozzle at the head of the boxes. Four men are employed on one shift per day.

The C. J. Berry Dredging Co. was operating as usual. Twelve men are employed on three shifts.

Heine Carstens was on Portage Creek operating the washing plant that he set up last year. He uses a tractor for power to revolve the screen on the washing plant, a bulldozer to feed the washing plant, and a nozzle to stack tailings. He and his wife work one shift per day.

Jens Landlow was working at his one-man hydraulic plant on Switch Creek.

Paul Bittner, who was prospecting in the vicinity of Circle Hot Springs, was at Jens Landlow's cabin when we were there. Bittner gave us a sample of psilomelane from a deposit he found earlier in the summer. The location of the deposit is described in J. A. Williams' Itinerary Report dated November 20, 1952.

Bob Wilkerson was mining on Miller Creek using a bulldozer and sluice plate. He and his two sons comprised a three-man crew working one shift per day.

August 2 to 18: Fairbanks to Lost River and return with J. A. Williams via Wien Alaska Airlines and Munz Airways.



Fig. 6. Carstens' washing plant on Portage Creek.



Fig. 7. Discharge end of Carstens' washing plant.


This trip was made primarily to do some geophysical work for the U. S. Min Corporation at Lost River. The work at Lost River and the side trips to other properties will be described in reports by J. A. Williams and Dan Jones.

August 27 to September 4: Fairbanks to Unakwik Inlet and return. This trip has been reported by J. A. Williams in his Itinerary Report dated November 20, 1952.

September 16 to October 6: Fairbanks to Sitkalidak Island and return.

This trip was made to examine the property of the Peninsula Exploration Co. ^{KX 191-8} The property was examined and reported on in 1951, and a supplementary report describing the exposures in 1952 has been submitted to the Juneau office. There was no activity in mining in the vicinity of Kodiak other than the prospecting being carried on by the Peninsula Exploration Co.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert H. Saunders
Associate Mining Engineer