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REPORT ON MINING CONDITIONS IN THE CHANDALAR DISTRICT

Mining in the Chandalar District is at present at a low ebb. This once important, though small mining camp, is reduced to three placer operations employing all told, about 5 men. Besides these men there are 4 men prospecting for placer and 3 men prospecting and doing assessmen work on quartz leads. Tho there is quite a little ground ~~xx~~ left that would pay to mine under more favorable conditions, the remote-- ness of the district, high freight rates and difficulties of transportation make living conditions so hard that most of the miners have had to leave. The entire district will not produce over \$4000.00 in 1929.

The Alaska Road Commission has cut a wagon road 74 miles from Beaver to Caro. This road is too wet to be used most of the summer, but may be used by wagons after drying in the fall, and by sleighs in winter. At Caro, Chas. De Bein and his wife run a roadhouse in winter for the freighters and other travellers coming to and from Little Squaw. In the summer Caro is deserted. There is a tram across the Chandalar River at Caro. The Alaska Road Commission has also cut a winter trail from Caro to Little Squaw Creek by way of Big Creek. In August, 1927, a wagon and two horses was driven over this trail, tho for the last 10 miles the wagon was taken apart and hauled by dog-teams. From Beaver to Caro the distance is 74 miles; from Caro to Little Squaw Creek---about 48 miles. Freight rates are from Beaver to Caro by horses 8 cents a pound; from Caro to Little Squaw Creek by dogteam, 7 cents a pound. Both rates are for winter haul. The distance from Fairbanks is about 180 miles by aeroplane. The rates are \$200 one way for single passenger; \$150 apiece one way for more than one passenger. There is good landing field at Little Squaw Creek.

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Wages are \$6.00 a day with board. Board costs \$4.00 a day. All road houses charge \$1.50 a meal and \$1.00 a bed.

The gold placers of the Chandalar District all head into or are adjacent to a mountain mass, bounded on the south by Big Creek, St. Mary's Creek and Tobin Creek; on the west by Chandalar Lake and North Fork River; on the north by Lake and Grave Creeks and on the east by McClellan Creek. This mountainous mass has been dissected into several peaks and connecting ridges, the highest of which, (Big Squaw Peak), rises about 5300 ft. above sea level. The placer gold in this area has undoubtedly been derived directly from the erosion of the numerous lodes and veins in this mountainous mass. The district is described by A. G. Maddren in U.S.G.S. Bulletin No. 532 and by J. B. Mertie, Jr., in Bulletin No. 773.

LITTLE SQUAW CREEK 1231-23

This was the first creek discovered by Carter and Frank Yasuda in 1905 and has been a producer, though in diminishing amounts, ever since. It received its placer gold from the erosion of the Eneveloe Lode, Little Squaw and other lodes which cross the creek bed. Bart Buckley, A. W. Amaro and C.I. Carlson have been mining on Discovery claim since the summer of 1927. The ground is owned by the Chas. McNett estate. They have cleaned about 4200 sq. ft. of bedrock. The ground is 167 ft. deep. They have run a drift 90 ft. from shaft to Right Limit rim, and a drift 110 ft. towards the Left Limit rim. They also sank a 5x5-foot shaft 70 ft. deep on the Right Limit rim. The ground is all frozen and no water is encountered. They sluiced and hoisted the pay in the summer, and hoisted onto a dump in the winter. The height of the working face is 6 ft. The gold is coarse, and lies in the gravel from bedrock up to 8 ft., though most of the values are in the lower 6 ft. It is valued at about \$17.45 an ounce.

The bedrock lies practically level. The gravel is fairly coarse with little sand. Water for sluicing is obtained from Little Squaw Creek. From 20 to 40 miners' inches ~~are~~ available. The gravel is shovelled into a car and trammed to the self-dumping bucket which has a capacity of 6 cu. ft. 30 buckets are hoisted a shift. A 20-H.P. boiler is used for hoisting and Little Giant 8-10 H.P. hoist. Seepage water is handled by a Worthington 2-inch disc pump. 148 ft. of 14-inch boxes on a grade of 10 ins. to 12 ft. and with pole riffles, are used. Many boulders are found from one to 10 ft. in diameter. The gravel is mostly composed of schist but some white granitic rocks and some dark diabasic rocks occur also. Though there is quite a little ground left on the claim to be mined, on account of increasing costs, the partners are not intending to continue operations after this season.

Oscar Otterson is prospecting on lower Little Squaw Creek for placer. K+31-22

Manuel Mello, who owns No. 2 Above, No. 3 Above and 3 bench claims, is prospecting on these claims for placer. K+31-22

B I G C R E E K

This creek received its placer gold from St. Mary's Creek and from the erosion of the Star Lode and other lodes which cross the creek bed. K+31-22

"Arthur Newton, who owns Discovery and No. 1 Below, is ground-sluicing with a splashdam and shovelling in on No. 1 Below. The ground is 12 ft. deep and all gravel. The gravel is similar to that on Little Squaw Creek, tho the boulders are less numerous and smaller. The gold is coarse and well-rounded. The grade of the creek is about 5%. Water is obtained from Pedro Creek. The amount varies from 80 to 10 miners inches. The ground is thawed in the Creek bed; otherwise, it

is frozen. About 2 seasons work is left. No men are employed.

²²³ O. J. Nicholson, who owns No. 3 Below, No. 4 Below and No. 5 Below, has been drifting since 1922 on No. 5 Below. The ground is about 20 ft. deep and is frozen. The gravel and the gold is the same as on Newton's ground. He has drifted out an area averaging 35 ft. wide by 300 ft. long. ~~But~~ In 1929, he was preparing to mine on No. 3 and 4 Below by ground sluicing an open cut. No men are employed.

ST. MARY'S CREEK

This creek was one of the largest producers in the Chandalar. It received its mineralization from the erosion of the Star Lode which lies along the left limit for the full length of the creek. The boulders and gravel on St. Mary's Creek appear much finer than on Big Creek. The creek was shallow diggings. No one at present is working on this creek.

BIG SQUAW CREEK

⁴⁻³¹⁻¹⁶
This creek cuts both the Eneveloe and Little Squaw Lodes. A little mining has been done near the head of the creek where it is jointed by a small right limit tributary called Robbin Gulch. No one is working here at the present time. There is no apparent reason why Big Squaw Creek should not be a producer as is Little Squaw Creek. So far as is known, no one has prospected the lower creek.

T O B I N C R E E K

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The Mikado Lode follows along the right limit of Tobin Creek near its head. In 1925-1926, a shaft 108 ft. deep was sunk on the creek without reaching bedrock. So far as is known, no one has ever reached bedrock on the creek. From all appearances this creek should carry gold in deep drifting ground. Timber has to be hauled 9 miles

up the creek.

Ellis Anderson is at present prospecting by himself on the creek. 12-31-24

BIG AND LITTLE McCLELLAN CREEKS

Good prospects have been reported from these creeks in early days.

DICTATOR CREEK 12-31-25

This is a large right limit tributary of Middle Fork River. Chris Olson has been prospecting on this creek for several years.

AGITATOR, TRILBY AND ROCK CREEKS

Encouraging prospects have been found in these creeks in early days but no mining has been done nor is anyone at present prospecting on them.

MIDDLE FORK RIVER

In early days about 1/2 mile above the mouth of Trilby Creek, coarse gold up to \$6 or \$7 a day was picked up on bedrock outcropping in the streambed. No further work has been done at this place.

SLATE CREEK, OUR CREEK AND BRIDGE CREEK

The first is a northern tributary of Grave Creek. The second is a large creek near Bend Mountain. The third is a large left limit tributary of North Fork River. Very encouraging prospects were found on the first two in early days. Prospects have been reported also in 1926 on Bridge Creek.