

DEPARTMENT OF MINES

RECEIVED

DEC 18 1948

JUNEAU, ALASKA

Box 1581  
Fairbanks, Alaska  
December 13, 1948

MR-048-03

K-48-1

Mr. B. D. Stewart,  
Commissioner of Mines  
Juneau, Alaska.

Dear Sir:

I am the owner of a group of placer claims near Rampart and I am interested in acquiring a partner.

I understand that your office keeps on file information on individual properties for prospective investors. I am therefore enclosing a report on my property, with some remarks. Thank you for filing it.

I would give a 49% interest in my claims in exchange for digging a ditch 4,000 feet long, 600 feet of hydraulic pipe and fittings and three giants, plus lumber for sluice boxes.

Very truly yours,

*Hilliard Avnet*

Hilliard Avnet,  
Box 1581  
Fairbanks, Alaska

Enc. 4 pp and sketch map

DEC 13 1948

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF MINES  
JUNEAU, ALASKA

Re: Slate Creek, Rampart, Alaska.

*Rampart Prospect*  
*Report* Hi. Iard Avnet, Box 1581, Fairbanks  
*by* *owner*

PROPERTY: Property consists of 13 placer claims, each 450 feet wide by 1320 feet long, a total length of  $3\frac{1}{4}$  miles along the creek.

PRODUCTION: Rampart has produced approximately \$1,400,000.00 in gold up to 1930 (figured at the old price of gold) according to government figures. A U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin published in 1904 credits Slate Creek with a production of \$15,000.00 up to the end of the year 1904. The creek was discovered in 1900.

HISTORY OF MINING: The first work done on Slate Creek was drifting about two miles above the mouth of the creek. Later, work was done in the creek bed from the mouth up a distance of a mile. The former owner of Slate Creek bought the ground in 1912 and worked it continuously until 1941. He mined by primitive methods and mined a very small area each summer. He worked by allowing water from a ditch to flow down the hillside, washing away the gravel until bedrock was reached. The water was then shut off and the nuggets picked up. In approximately 30 years he mined approximately 46,000 square feet of ground.

REMARKS: The ground is well prospected. For a distance of 1 mile there are old workings totaling 46,000 square feet. There remains approximately 450,000 square feet to be mined in the lower mile. The former owner and I worked a small area in front of the cabin and we picked up gold worth \$141.69 from 205 square feet. A prospect drift mined during the winter of 1945-'46 produced \$121.00 from 554 square feet and only half the gravel or 17 cubic yards was sluiced.

Coarse gold has been found a distance of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles along the creek. The lower mile is prospected but the upper mile and a half will have to be prospected.

The creek furnishes a good supply of water for mining. One measurement 4,000 feet from the mouth late in the summer showed the creek was 11 feet wide by 6 inches deep and flowing 100 feet in 40 seconds or approximately 560 miners inches.

The mining season is from early May until about the middle of September. Some years mining could be started in late April as the creek is flowing then.

I plan to operate a hydraulic plant with a tractor and bulldozer in conjunction. A ditch 4,000 feet long will give a head of 120 feet at the workings.

Mineral Deposits of the Rampart and Hot Springs Districts, Alaska

By J. E. Mertie, Jr.  
Geological Survey Bulletin 844-D, 1931

(PP 187)

SLATE CREEK

"Slate Creek enters Winok Creek from the west about 11 miles above its mouth. It is about 4 miles long and flows in a general northeasterly direction. Its valley is narrowly V-shaped in the lower part but somewhat more open in the headwater region. The gradient of Slate Creek in the lower part of its valley is about 150 feet to the mile.

"The gold in Slate Creek is found in both creek and bench placers, but the old creek workings have been largely filled in by gravel subsequently deposited by the creek. The bench gravel now being worked is confined to the northwest side of the creek, and the character of the alluvium suggests that much of the gold may have come from this northwest slope of the valley. The bedrock in the creek consists of sheared or schistose chert, black, maroon, and green slate and phyllite, and, in the lower valley, limestone. The gravel consists of the same types of rock, with the addition of considerable vein quartz and a small percentage of several varieties of schist, including some dark green epidote - chlorite schist, probably derived from the metamorphism of basic intrusive rocks. The country rock in general is considerably metamorphosed. The vein quartz, which is present in both bedrock and gravel, is probably the source of the gold.

"Discovery claim on Slate Creek is about 4,000 feet from the mouth, and 500 foot claims were staked upstream as far as claim 12 above Discovery. The early mining on Slate Creek was done in the Creek placers, but those having now been worked out, and present mining is confined to the benches. No data are available on the character of the creek placers, except the statement by Hess in 1904 that most of the work at that time had been done nearly 2 miles above the mouth by winter drifting in gravel 26 feet thick. Much subsequent open-cut work, however, has evidently been done in the creek itself farther downstream. The paystreak in these upper placers was said by Hess to be 50 feet wide, and the gold was reported to occur in the lower three feet of gravel and the upper 1½ feet of fractured bedrock. A piece of gold worth \$8.00 was the largest then reported, but placer silver also occurred with the gold, and one silver nugget weighing 3 ounces was recorded.

"The present mining is being done along the northwest bench on Claim 2 below Discovery. An open cut about 15 to 20 feet above the level of the creek is being opened up. The placer consists of about 5 feet of well-worn gravel and boulders, overlain by 10 to 12 feet of muck. The fractured bedrock is mingled with considerable clayey material some of which is yellowish brown from iron staining and is probably mineralized. The gold is coarse, and some nuggets have been found worth as much as \$100.00 \*

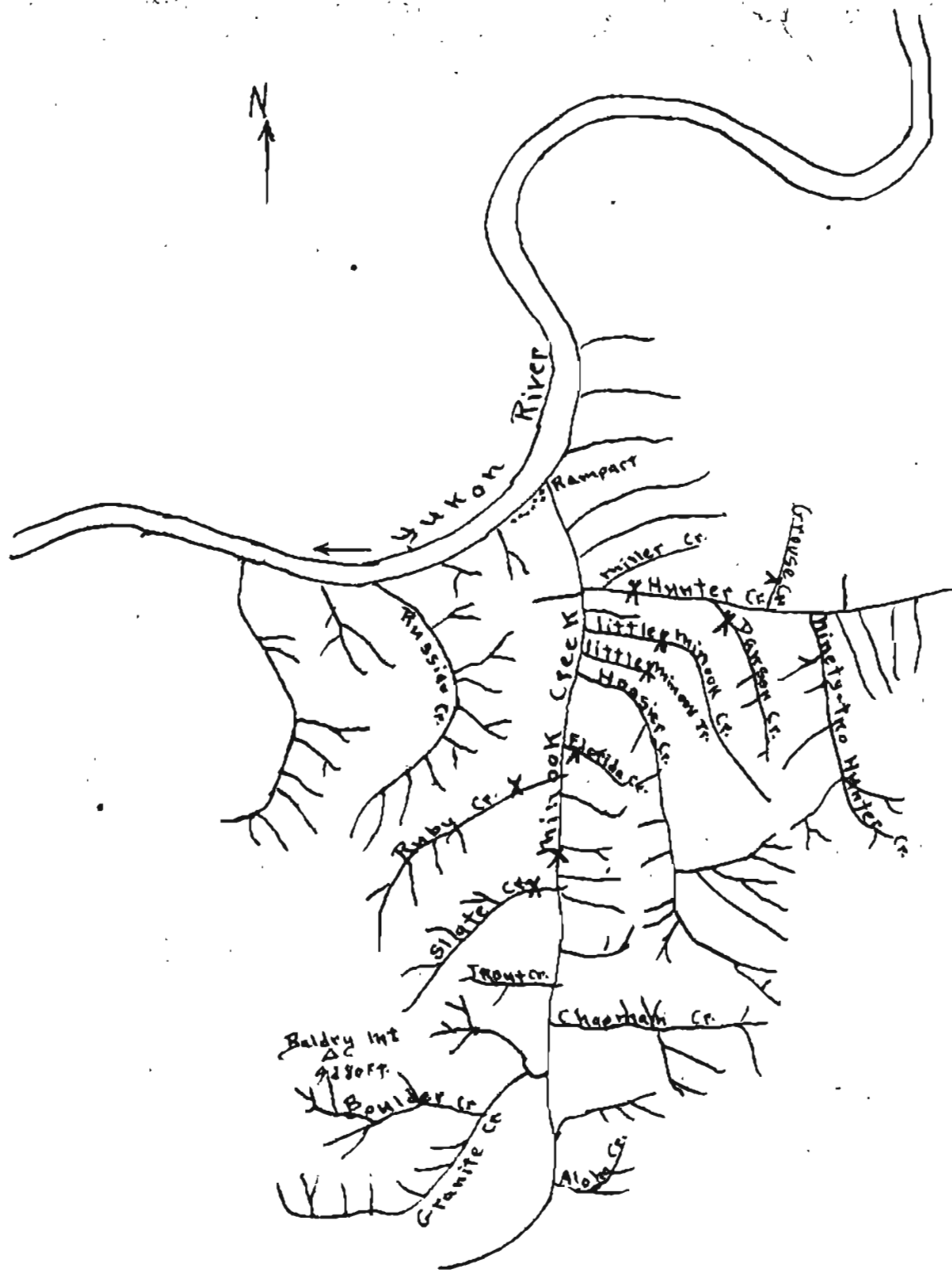
\* figured at the old price of gold.

Re: Slate Creek, Rampart, Alaska (continued)

The average fineness of the gold is said by the operator to be 0.915, and this without counting the silver, makes the gold worth \$18.91<sup>0</sup> an ounce. No concentrates are available from these operations, but much barite was observed as good-sized cobbles in the gravel and placer silver is of common occurrence.

"This mining is done largely by a unique application of ground-slucing methods. A ditch 1200 feet long brings a sluice head of water to the upper part of the cut, where it is ponded and allowed to splash periodically down over the face of the cut. No nozzle is used, and no sluice boxes are employed. The operator merely visits the cut when the overburden has been groundsluiced away and picks up the nuggets."

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X Gold Placer

Rampart Mining District

RE: Slate Creek, Rampart Alaska

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Box 1581, Fairbanks

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