

MINING OPERATIONS IN THE RAMPART DISTRICT, 1957

During June, 1957, there were three active mining operations in the Rampart District. The Weisner Trading Co, having recently acquired the property formerly mined by the Little Minook Mining Co, now holds property on three creeks in the District. None of these properties were being worked in June, but work was planned on all the properties during the season.

In addition to the active mining operations there were three part-time prospectors in the District. Hilliard Avnet was reported to be performing assessment work on placer claims that he owns on Slate Creek, tributary to Minook Creek. Everett Ford, while on leave from work at Ladd AFB, was sniping with a 2-inch pump at the mouth of Eighteen Pup, tributary to Hoosier Creek. Red Anderson was reported to be prospecting on a tributary to lower Goose Creek. The Hunter Creek Mining Co, which was not operating, was reported to be for sale.

K448-20 Harry Havirlack. Harry Havirlack is mining on Ruby Creek about one-fourth mile upstream from the mouth of the creek. For mining and stacking tailing he uses an Allis-Chalmers "L" model gasoline tractor (same rating as H-D 14). The gravel is pushed onto a sluice plate and gravity water from a short ditch is used for sluicing. The bedrock is slate; the gravel is 3 to 4 feet thick; and the muck is 3 to 10 feet thick. An hydraulic giant is used for stripping, and the water for stripping is furnished by a 10 by 12 pump powered

by a GMC diesel engine. Garnets are numerous in the sluice box concentrate, and several large flakes of muscovite have been found in the boxes.

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Quail Creek Mining Co. The owners of the Quail Creek Mining Co had prepared a small cut near the mouth of Quail Creek for mining. Mining this year was to be done with a D-8 Caterpillar tractor. A D-2 Caterpillar tractor with a Crescent scraper was to be used for stacking tailing. The owners use a large, cribbed, log box with a grizzly across the top at the head of their sluice box. Heavy steel pipes are used for grizzly bars. Below the grizzly is a steel trough, and above the grizzly is a perforated pipe on a swivel. Water for sluicing comes into the trough below the grizzly, and the gravel is pushed onto the grizzly from one side of the box. Boulders too large to go through the grizzly are washed clean by water spraying down from the perforated pipe. After a pile of boulders has accumulated on the grizzly, the bulldozer goes on top of the grizzly far enough to push the boulders over the side of the box. The perforated pipe is also pushed to one side by the bulldozer as it advances, and the pipe returns to its normal position when the bulldozer backs off the grizzly. This feed box was built to be used with the D-2 tractor, and now that the owners have a D-8, they intend to build a larger box.

In the cut being prepared for mining there are three feet of muck and three feet of gravel over slate bedrock. The ground is thawed. A automatic dam is used for stripping the muck.

In past years the present owners have mined on the left-limit bench beside the present cut and in the center of the valley at the upper camp, which is about four miles upstream from the lower camp. Some mining was done in the early days on lower Quail Creek on the left-limit bench and in the center of the valley.

An army surplus "weasel" is used for transportation around the workings. A small airstrip has been built in the valley of the South Fork of Quail Creek. All the supplies and materials for a season are brought in each year by tractor train from Livengood. A road is now being built by the Bureau of Public Roads between Livengood and Eureka, and the owners plan to break a new trail to the road to decrease the length of tractor haul necessary to bring in supplies.

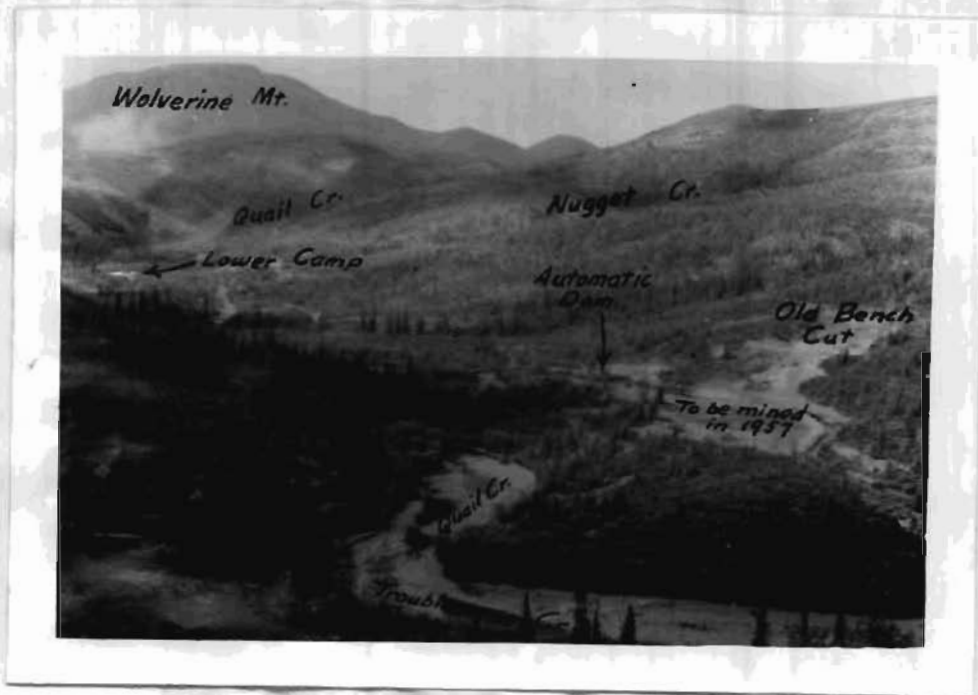
T and T Mining Co. Bill Thomas of T and T Mining Co is mining on the left-limit bench on lower Hunter Creek. In this part of the valley there apparently is an old channel against the toe of the slope on the left-limit side. The bedrock slopes up from the left-limit side to the center of the valley then slopes down again to the right-limit side, where the creek now flows. The gold is coarser and more abundant along the toe of the slope on the left-limit side than it is toward the center of the valley. The bedrock is overlaid by about five feet of gravel and 15 to 16 feet of muck. The ground is mostly frozen. The muck is stripped by hydraulic giants; water for stripping is supplied by a diesel-powered pump. The gravel is pushed to the head of the boxes with a D-8 Caterpillar tractor and washed through the boxes with a giant. Gravity water

from a short ditch is used for sluicing. The bedrock where mining was done last year is dark red chert. In June, the unusually warm weather provided good conditions for stripping the frozen muck, therefore, all the available water was being used for stripping and no mining was being done. Frank Reinosky of Rampart was employed by T and T Mining Co for a few weeks in the Spring; he was reported to be continuing his prospecting for a meteorite near the head of Grouse Creek.

At the three active operations there was almost no ground that had been blocked out by prospecting. On Quail Creek some drilling was done in the Spring of 1957, but only the ground to ^{be} mined during the season was tested. In general, the operators prospect the ground by taking out a cut, and if that proves profitable they mine another cut adjacent to it, guiding their work by panning as the gravel is exposed. Most of the mining is being done on the benches beside ground that was mined in the past. If all of these benches should prove to be minable, there would be large reserves for small-scale operations on all three of the creeks.



Harry Havirlack stripping muck on Ruby Creek.



View looking up Quail Creek from east side of Troublesome Creek.



Side view of feed box used by Quail Creek Mining Co.



Top of Quail Creek Mining Co feed box showing swivel pipe
and grizzly.

NOTED
OCT 23 1957
PHIL R. HOLDSWORTH
Commissioner of Mines

197-17

LIST OF OPERATORS, RAMPART DISTRICT, 1967

<u>Name and Address</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Type of Operation</u>	<u>Approx Crew</u>
Havirlack, Harry Rampart	Ruby Creek, trib to Minook Creek	Non-float	1
Quail Creek Mining Co. (M.C. Haugdahl and Wm Redig) Box 291 Fairbanks	Quail Creek	Non-float	2
T and T Mining Co. (Wm. Thomas) Rampart (summer) 503-7th Ave, Fairbanks (winter)	Hunter Creek	Non-float	2
Weisner Trading Co. (Ira Weisner and Jim Pierce) Rampart	Little Minook Creek Little Minook Jr Creek Hoosier Creek	Non-float	2 (?)