State of Alaska
Department of Mines

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MINING ACTIVITIES

FIRST DIVISION - Mr. and Mrs. Bert Parker are planning to reopen the Mt. Parker property (formerly the LeRoy Mine) at Glacier Bay this summer, and put it into production. New milling equipment is planned. The mine is a gold quartz vein proposition, and last produced in 1950.

THIRD DIVISION - Equipment will be lifted up to the Billy Quitsch Little Giant gold lode above Mineral Creek near Valdez as part of a plan to put that property into production. Repair of the Mineral Creek road is being requested by Mr. Quitsch and his associates.

FOURTH DIVISION - The Miscovich Brothers will all be at their placer ground near Flat this summer. They will not operate their Poorman Creek mine.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

For the information of any readers who may not know by now, Mr. Phil R. Holdsworth received appointment as Commissioner of Natural Resources to head the new department. However, the new department still remains to be activated, and no division heads within the yet unorganized department have been appointed. Details on the proposed divisions within the department were mentioned last month.

STATE LEGISLATIVE NEWS

At the time of writing, none of the bills of particular interest to the industry have been signed by the Governor, but he has only a few days more for action. Under our State Constitution, after the Legislature adjourns the Governor must act upon bills within 20 days after their receipt, or they become law without his signature. In other words, we no longer have the pocket veto. H.B. 13 (Administrative Procedures), H.B. 101 (Wage-hour), S.B. 22 (Workmens Compensation), S.B. 24 (Securities Act), S.B. 41 (Redemption of delinquent lands under land registration law), S.B. 77, (Land Act), and S.B. 91 (Employment Security) all passed both houses and await the Governor's action.

No new taxes were passed, but S.B.'s 22 and 91, if signed by the Governor, will affect the cost of doing business for the industry. The bills for a property tax and higher gas tax fell by the wayside. H.B. 79 for access roads to inaccessible mineral areas passed, as reported earlier, but received only a $50,000 appropriation. The appropriation bill, however, has not yet been approved. S.B. 110, to set up, among other things, a new recording system, did not pass.

OIL NEWS

Standard and Richfield are drilling below 9,700 feet in their directional effort at Swanson River Unit No. 4, after the vertical hole proved dry.

Halbouty-King are fishing below 10,500 in the Halbouty-King No. 1 near the edge

of the Swanson River Unit on the Kenai.

Colorado Oil and Gas is now testing zones below 10,000 in its Yakutat No. 3.

Alaska Consolidated is not releasing information on its progress in the Iniskin-Antonio Zappa No. 1 well on the Alaska Peninsula.

The water-borne seismic work in the Cook Inlet is proceeding in spite of heavy ice difficulties, and will apparently be completed as planned by the end of May. Information from observers indicates that no fish have been killed.

The U.S. Geological Survey has approved the Kenai Unit which contains 61,468.04 acres on the Kenai Peninsula. A drill site for the Union-Ohio well within the new unit has been approved.

Teikoku Oil Company of Japan is actively conducting a preliminary joint survey into oil possibilities with Polaris Exploration Company, Inc., of Anchorage.

LISTING OF ALASKAN CONSULTANTS

As a help to mineral industry people looking for consultants, and to consultants looking for clients, we propose to compile a list of Alaskan mineral industry consultants to be made available to those who are in the need of consulting services. We would appreciate hearing from any consultants in the mining, oil, or geophysical line who would care to be on such a list. The list would simply carry the consultant's name, address, and specialty. We would not attempt to list qualifications or experience, and being on such a list would not constitute an endorsement or recommendation by this agency. We merely wish to let the industry know who is available.

P. L. 167 AREA FOR DETERMINATION OF SURFACE RIGHTS

Another area has been designated by the U.S. Forest Service for the determination of surface rights on mining claims under Public Law 167 of July 23, 1955. This is in addition to many earlier areas within the Tongass and Chugach National Forests, all reported in earlier issues of the TDM Bulletin. Holders of claims staked prior to the date of the Act have 150 days from the starting date of publication to file verified statements if they wish to retain exclusive surface rights to their claims. The new area includes all land on Culross Island in Prince William Sound. Publication began in the Anchorage Daily Times on April 22, 1959.

WITHDRAWALS AND ROAD MONEY

As another angle on what land withdrawals mean to Alaskans, consider the following. No one thing is needed more for the development of Alaska than the building of new roads. As a State, we receive matching funds from the Federal government for road construction. The ratio by which these matching funds are given to us is determined according to the amount of public domain we have. As the situation stands right now, we only have to put up 12.2% of the road-building funds. If we had 10,000,000 acres less of public domain, then our share would be approximately 14.0%. When a withdrawal for any purpose is made, it is no longer vacant, unappropriated public domain. Thus, when withdrawals such as the proposed 9 million acre Arctic Wildlife Range or the 2 million acre Kuskokwim bird refuge are made, the State will either have less roads or the taxpayers will have to pay more for the same amount.

In addition to the requested withdrawal of 607,800 acres east of Eielson AFB for a NIKE missile range reported on in the last Bulletin, the military is requesting 572,000 more acres in the vicinity of Big Delta for a training maneuver and weapons testing and firing area. Apparently, the period for objections has passed. Under the new Engle law, Military withdrawals of over 5,000 acres must be passed on by Congress, so comments addressed to your Congressman would be in order at this point.

THE PRICE OF GOLD

Alaska's Congressional delegation, with others, are going to make a real try to get the gold price raised, they inform us. The present overall situation is summed up fairly well in the following paragraph quoted from the E.& M.J. magazine:

> "The gold bug has bitten Washington. Reaction was fast and furious to the introduction of legislation in the opening days of the new Congress last month by Sen James Murray (D-Mont.) and other Congressmen to double the pegged price of gold from $35 per oz to $70 per oz. The implications of such a move are many and important - for domestic mining, the U.S. economy, and international finance. The trouble is, economists can't agree among themselves on all its effects.
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> "Opposition is strong, both in the Administration and industry in this country and from overseas, on the grounds this would weaken the dollar in international finance. But there also is new interest and pressure for the move, which has often been proposed in the past without getting anywhere. In addition to its obvious benefits to gold producers, it is being backed as an indirect subsidy to copper, lead and zinc mines which produce gold as a by-product, and as a much-needed stimulus to a hungry Alaskan economy."

NEW REPORTS

The U.S. Bureau of Mines has published Information Circular 7878, Tin-Placer Sampling Methods and Results, Cape Mountain District, Seward Peninsula, Alaska. This report gives complete data on the drilling of the various tin-bearing creeks in the area and other information. Bedrock sections are shown. Reserves are not given, but can be computed from the data supplied. There is a large volume of tin-bearing gravel present. Copies of the report can be obtained from the U.S.B.M., Publications Distribution Section, 4800 Forbes St., Pittsburgh, Penna.

U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 1058-B entitled "Geology and ore deposits in the Reid Inlet area, Glacier Bay, Alaska, with notes on a mineralized zone near Lituya Bay" and U.S.G.S. Bulletin 1058-C entitled "Geology of Geikie Inlet Area, Glacier Bay, Alaska" can be obtained at 65¢ each over the counter at 204 Denali Bldg., Anchorage or by mail from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. They can be seen in all Alaska offices of the U.S.G.S. and State Department of Mines.

U.S.G.S. Bulletin 1058-D entitled "The Little Susitna district, Matanuska Coalfield, Alaska" is also 65¢ and can be obtained as outlined above. This bulletin provides information and maps resulting from trenching and auger drilling of the coal formations of the Little Susitna district of the Matanuska field.

MISCELLANEOUS

Many people wonder what is keeping the Alaska Juneau Gold Mining stock up. We see in a news item that A. J. has just received three contracts totalling nearly four million dollars for the manufacture of aircraft fuel tanks and in-flight refueling systems. That should help explain it.

The latest acquisition of a helicopter in Southeastern Alaska is that of the Dean Goodwin Air Service in Juneau. The machine is a Bell Model G and the pilot is Jim Cox, who has a great deal of "chopper" experience including the season of 1957 in Southeastern Alaska with the U.S.G.S.

According to a release from the University of Alaska School of Mines, the annual geochemical prospecting course will start there on May 6. It will consist of classes each weekday evening for two weeks and will include one all-day field trip. Further information can be obtained from the School of Mines at College, Alaska.

We recently received legal opinions that the original Leasing Act of 1914 is the only Act affecting allowable coal permit or leasing acreages in Alaska. It has been held that later Acts enlarging the allowable coal leasing acreages above the original 2,560 do not apply to Alaska. A bill has since been introduced by our two Senators to increase the amount that can be leased by an individual or company to 30,000 acres on Federal public domain land. Under the provisions of the new Alaska Land Act an individual or corporation may hold up to 15,360 acres in coal leases on State lands.

E. AND M. J. METAL MARKET PRICES

	Apr. 23 1959	Month Ago	Year Ago
Copper, per lb.	31.6¢	32.0¢	24.3¢
Lead, per lb.	11.5¢	11.5¢	12¢
Zinc, per lb.	11¢	11¢	10¢
Tin, per lb.	102.5¢	102.5¢	93¢
Nickel, per lb.	74¢	74¢	74¢
Platinum, per oz.	$75-80	$75-80	$65-75
Quicksilver, per flask	$242-247	$227-232	$230-235
Silver, foreign, New York	91.4¢	91.4¢	89.6¢
Silver, domestic, per oz.	90.5¢	90.5¢	90.5¢
Antimony ore, per unit	$3.10-3.20	$3.10-3.20	$3.00-3.10
Chrome ore, per long ton	$40-42	$40-42	$115
Molybdenum conc., per lb.	$1.25	$1.25	$1.18
Titanium ore, per ton	$23-26	$23-26	$26-30
Tungsten ore, per unit	$19-22	$19-22	$19-20