ate of Alaska
Department of Natural Resources
DIVISION OF MINES AND MINERALS

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MINES BULLETIN

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MINING ACTIVITIES

FIRST DIVISION - A syndicate managed by Moneta Porcupine Ltd. of Toronto staked a new copper property last year and is now drilling it. The prospect is located above Endicott Arm, between Juneau and Petersburg.

Prospecting activities have accelerated recently in the First Division, and there is now considerably more exploration in progress along the Panhandle than was earlier anticipated.

According to the Southeast Stevedore Company of Ketchikan, it has been hired to load 5,000 tons of iron ore from Haines. This ore would come from the Klukwan deposit, presently being explored by Columbia Iron Mining Company, a subsidiary of U.S. Steel.

SECOND DIVISION - Bear Creek Mining Company (Kennecott) is drilling for the third successive season on the Ruby Creek copper show on Ruby Creek north of the Kobuk River near Shungnak. There is a crew of about 38 men on the property this year.

THIRD DIVISION - A new Manitowoc Model 4500 dragline was christened with a bottle of champagne at the Minor Roop coal strip pit recently. It has a 120-foot boom.

OIL NEWS

The State Division of Lands has scheduled a public hearing on proposed rules and regulations for oil and gas leasing on State lands. Copies of the proposed regulations and proposed forms to be used have been widely distributed, and more are available at the Division of Lands, 333 D Street, Anchorage. Possible future applicants for State oil and gas lands are invited to attend and present their views. The proposed rules cover such matters as availability of land for leasing, qualifications, limitations, rentals, royalties, practices and procedures governing competitive and noncompetitive regulations, forms to be used for the various functions, etc. Those attending the meeting should be prepared to discuss any points or subjects within the scope of bidding and leasing on which they have definite opinions. Problems in the realm of policy rather than regulations such as the need for various facilities in connection with offshore and onshore production will also be discussed. Regulations will become effective 30 days after action on changes made at the hearing. The hearing will be at the Z. J. Loussac Library in Anchorage on July 9.

Standard and Richfield are still working on their directional redrill of Swanson River Unit No. 4 well. Union and Ohio are down to 8,000 feet in the Kenai Unit Well No. 1. Anchorage Gas and Oil Development Company is drilling at 4,200 near Houston. laska Consolidated Oil is below 7,000 feet at Iniskin. General Petroleum and Great Basins are now rigging up for Becharof No. 1 well in the Nushagak Basin.

"Gold in melted or treated form may be sold or disposed of only by a person or concern operating under a Treasury gold license authorizing the disposition of gold in such form.

"The Secretary of the Treasury, subject to the approval of the President, has authority to revoke or modify the Gold Regulations."

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR COAL-LEASING STATEMENT

The quotation below is a portion of a letter from the Department of the Interior to Representative Aspinall, Chairman of the House Interior Committee. Representative Aspinall had requested the Department to state its views on H.R. 6939, a bill to increase the acreage limitation on leasing coal lands in Alaska to 30,720 acres from the present 2,560.

"The present acreage limitation imposed by the Alaska Coal Lands Act is intended to prevent monopoly. However, we can discover little danger of that in the coal industry, and we believe that any danger of monopoly which does exist can best be overcome by encouraging the development of further resources. The present restriction applicable to Alaska is so stringent that it tends to discourage investment in coal mining there, and if the Federal Government is to permit the more complete utilization of low and medium grade coal deposits under more modern methods of mechanized mining an increase in the acreage limitation appears necessary. Under the geologic conditions prevailing in Alaska coal deposits in many cases are variable and unpredictable. Lessees operating more than one mine and mining more than one type of coal may find it imperative that they be permitted to acquire additional land without giving up the land now being worked by them. In many cases isolated areas at the present time cannot be developed because before they can be leased, existing operations must be dropped. An increase in the acreage limitation would probably encourage many existing lessees to explore and develop larger areas than they may at the present time hold under lease. At the present time there is increased interest in coal production in Alaska for foreign export. We believe that every effort should be made to induce the timely and proper development in Alaska's coal resources. Accordingly, we feel that an increase in the maximum acreage which may be held under coal lease in Alaska is desirable; however, we do not at this time favor the increase proposed by H.R. 6939."

The letter then goes on to state that the Department of the Interior does favor an increase to 20,480 acres for Alaska, and will not object to passage of the bill if the proposed acreage limitation is reduced to that amount.

ETCETERA

An apparently well informed helicopter pilot informs us that there are at least 90 "choppers" working in Alaska this summer. Most are in oil exploration, of course, but their use by mining firms is increasing steadily.

From the number of requests that came in, it looks as if we will have to make good on our offer to mimeograph the paper "The Construction and Operation of Mining Camps n Northern Latitudes," although we have beenpromised reprints of the article from the magazine Western Miner and Oil Review if it can secure the paper for publication. Either way, we will see to it that all who have requested it, and others who may yet request it, will receive copies.

E. AND M. J. METAL MARKET PRICES

	June 25 1959	Month Ago	Year Ago
Copper, per lb.	31.5¢	31.6¢	25.2¢
Lead, per lb.	12¢	12¢	11.5¢
Zinc, per lb.	11¢	11¢	10¢
Tin, per lb.	103.4¢	102.3¢	94.8¢
Nickel, per lb.	74¢	74¢	74¢
Platinum, per oz.	$76-80	$76-80	$62-70
Quicksilver, per flask	$239-241	$245-247	$228-230
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	$35-36	$40-42	$46-48
Molybdenum conc., per lb.	$1.25	$1.25	$1.18
Titanium ore, per ton	$23-26	$23-26	$23-26
Tungsten ore, per unit	$20-22	$20-22	$17-22