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PE 85-7

PRELIMINARY REPORT OF CLYDE THORPE PROPERTY,
GRUBSTAKE CREEK, WILLOW CREEK DISTRICT, ALASKA
August 8, 1938

Location and Accessibility:

The Clyde Thorpe property, otherwise known as the Grubstake property, consists of six lode claims, and is located between the east and west branches of Grubstake Gulch 2 miles above its mouth into Willow Creek. The workings are located between elevations of 3200 and 3300 feet, and are reached via 2 miles of pack horse trail from the Willow Creek road.

Owners:

The property is owned by Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Thorpe of Wasilla, Alaska.

History:

The discovery on this group was made by Mr. Thorpe and partner while prospecting the placer on lower Grubstake. The property was staked and since then has been held with intermittent development and the operation of a small mill.

Geology and Showings:

The formation, which comprises the claim group, consists of mica schists. These are classified as the oldest rocks within the district, and they have been subject to considerable deformation and contain a series of fault fissures. These fissures are parallel and cut the cleavage of the mica schists at a low angle. Their strike is N. 65° to 70° W. with dips ranging from 65° to 75° W. Short quartz lenses occur in the fissures. However, the greater portion is mainly gouge material of alteration products. The gold occurs free in the gouge and the quartz lenses. These veins range in width from a few inches to two and one-half feet. For further information in regard to the geology refer to U. S. G. S. bulletin 607, "The Willow Creek District, Alaska" by S. R. Capps. A description of the property is contained in U. S. G. S. bulletin 849-C, "The Willow Creek Gold Lode District, Alaska" by James C. Ray, p. 228.

coated with oxides that makes the amalgamation recovery difficult. Most of the sulphides have been oxidized, however, in the concentrates caught on the coco-matting a little pyrite, galena and chalcopyrite shows. Fouled quicksilver collects also with the sulphides. At first this quicksilver was believed to have had its origin within the mill, but pannings of the ore show this quicksilver in this state occurs in the ore itself. This was also reported found associated with the placer gold on lower Grubstake. The origin of this quicksilver is not known. The gangue minerals consist mainly of gouge of altered minerals from the formation such as talc, mica, chlorite and earth materials, along with iron oxides and a white to bluish quartz.

Machinery:

All mining has been done by hand methods. The ore from No. 1 tunnel is lowered to the mill, elevation 3200 feet, via a jig-back gravity tram. It is fed direct to a Prospector's size Straub ball mill which has a capacity of 200 pounds per hour. This mill is run by a 3 H. P. Fairbanks Morse gas engine. Quicksilver is used inside the mill, and two sets of amalgam plates below. Below the plates a set of Hungarian type riffles is used and below a few feet of coco-matting.

A camp of three buildings is located below the workings at 2500 feet elevation. Two men are employed during the summer season of three to four months. Timber is lacking, but a small water power could be developed during summer months.