

(13.2, 7.1)

151° 21' W
59° 24' N

Oct 31, 1953

DEPARTMENT OF MINES
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JUNEAU, ALASKA

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SUBJECT: Lyons Mining Account Chromite Deposit
Barbary Creek, Seldovia District,
Kenai Peninsula, Alaska

TO: Phil R. Holdsworth, Commissioner,
Territorial Department of Mines

FROM: M. W. Jasper, Associate Mining Engineer
Territorial Department of Mines

KX 104-7

The chromite deposit of the Lyons Mining Account was visited on October 28th and 29th, 1953.

The property embraces six lode mineral claims, which were located in July 1953 following the discovery of chromite in serpentine near the northwest margin of Red Mountain dunite intrusive into the sediments of the region. In this particular area serpentinization of the basic dunite is the most pronounced of any section noted to date. As has been noted in U. S. Geological ^{SURVEY} Reports covering the previously known chromite deposits, the chromite lenses (or masses) here are roughly parallel to the nearby sedimentary-intrusive contact.

While persistent stripping for appreciable distances on what appears to be at least three separate chromite occurrences has not been done to date, their apparant strikes appear to be within limits of N60 to 70E and dips nearly vertical, suggesting a marked parallelism in strike and dip and lying wholely within serpentine zones.

While the drainage system of the valley in which the deposits are located is locally called Barbary creek, Geological Survey maps name the master stream Fish Creek. The property is located at head of this stream at and near the crest of a well rounded ridge on east side of the valley. The ore occurrences are about 1 1/4 miles due west of the chromite showings on the Juneau No. 1 claim, the latter being on the mountain slope on west side of upper reaches of the Windy river, and an estimated 2 1/2 miles due west of the Star No. 4 mineral claim chromite deposit now under development by the Kenai Chrome Company, which lie on east side of the upper Windy river valley.

Location of the chromite occurrences examined on the Lyons property are as follows:-

No. 1. At discovery post of the Margaret N. mineral claim on crest of ridge at 2680 foot elevation. Here the shallow discovery open-cut was covered by drifted snow, and was not located and cleaned out for sampling. However, a grab sample was taken of chromite used as a cairn around the discovery post and appears to be a very high-grade chromite. Sample No. 1L was taken here.

the same

No. 2. This showing is also on crest of well rounded ridge and at point (EL. 2650) about 250 feet east of No. 1. A shallow trench dug across 20 feet was filled in with drifted snow but a trench

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was excavated under my direction to depth of 6 inches. This work exposed a width of 17 feet of high-grade chromite but was not continued to determine the full width of mineralization. Here the chromite shows strong brecciation, with the fractures showing very thin films of serpentine. Sample No. 3L was taken (chip) across the 17 foot width.

While the walls of this shallow cut were not exposed Mr. Lyons reports he has traced this zone through medium of "float" for several hundred feet to the west, and he considered it be the same as that sampled. This new trench is located 20 to 30 feet east of the 20 foot trench noted above, and strike of the mineralization appeared to be about N60 to 70E. It is interesting to note that the area Sample No. 3L is were the "high" magnetometer readings were obtained on July 29th, 1953.

No. 3. This showing is an estimated 400 below and down the ridges south slope from Showing No. 2. It is a few feet from Discovery Post of the Billy L lode claim. This discovery cut was also drifted in, but on cleaning out a width of 28 inches was exposed of high-grade and no definite walls were exposed. Residual weathering of the serpentine covered the outcrop to depth of 12 inches.

Sample No. 2 L was taken here across 29 inches, with Mr. Lyons reporting that he had traced it through medium of fine "float" a hundred feet or more to the east and west. The owner considers the iron content in this showing to be lower than that in the showings at crest of ridge.

No. 4. Mr. Lyons reports that he uncovered a 14 foot width of solid chromite 50 feet or more down slope from showing No. 3. However, depth of the drifted snow obscured the shallow dump and efforts to uncover it were not successful. He reports that in this cut he had not exposed either foot or hanging wall.

From the trail of "float" the owner believes that both the No. 3 and No. 4 showings have the same N60 to 70W strike and nearly vertical dip.

No. 5. This ore occurrence lies on the north slope of the same ridge. Chromite "in place" has not been located to date, but "float" up to 4 ft in width is reported to have been found. With snow covering the ground no effort was made to investigate this occurrence.

Except for the "trail of float" which appears to support the owners belief of above noted strikes and dips (which seems to be supported by fact that "float" to date in the area seems to be close to its source) there seems to be a definite possibility the several occurrences may possibly (?) have a north-south strike and/or flatter dip.

Exploration of the unusually attractive chromite occurrences on the property have been purposely delayed until completion of a road from the valley to the showings. This road is now within $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles of the outcrops, completion of which is hoped to be

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within the next 2 or 3 weeks. The owners plan is to then strip the several ore occurrences with dozer equipment, and carry on an open pit mining operation throughout the winter months - except, possibly, during period of excessively cold weather.

Access to the property at present is over a "pioneer" (pilot) road which the owners have constructed at their own cost since August. Utilizing about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles of the old winter "cat" road which was started to the Jakalof Bay area some years ago for the old Chrome Queen operations - and which for the most part is in deplorable condition although improved to wenter extent by Mr. Lyons and associates - the balance is along Fish creek valley for an estimated $7\frac{1}{2}$ to 8 miles. This section can be used for a winter road without much trouble, but a great deal of it should be relocated.

(and necessary)

It seems highly desirable for the development of the mineral resources of the district that government assistance and attention be given to that project, and a road be constructed from Seldovia to lower end of Kenai Chrome companys road at Jakalof Bay and up Fish creek to property of the Lyons Mining Account. Until reasonable trucking conditions are provided for the district, intensive development of this increasingly important strategic mineral area will be greatly retarded.

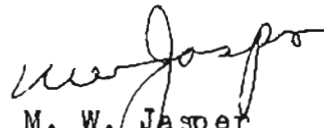
At time of visit Mr. Lyons advised he and associates costs for their "pilot" road has been \$15,000.

On returning from investigation of the Fish creek property the trip to Seldovia was made on foot over the road, and observations made of conditions encountered.

Conclusions

Impressions obtained from investigations made on the Lyons property suggest that these deposits have reasonable expectation of proving to be of greater importance than any deposits found and exploited in the past.

By-



M. W. Jasper
Associate Mining Engineer

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