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PRELIMINARY REPORT OF THE ASHBY-TARRO PROPERTY, WINDFALL BASIN, Kx 112-49
 JUNEAU GOLD BELT, ALASKA
 June 16, 1937.

Location and Accessibility:

The Ashby-Tarro property is located at the head of Windfall Creek, 16 miles airline northwest of Juneau, Alaska. This property consists of four claim groups; namely, Veløtt, Tunnel, Rockers and Yukon, and comprises a total of 28 lode claims. They extend from the head of Montana Creek across and north of Windfall Creek between elevations of 1,500 and 2,500 feet. A road is under construction at the present time by the U. S. Forest Service from the loop road of the Glacier Highway, Mile 13½, up the Montana Creek basin, which upon completion, will pass down Windfall Basin within a mile of this property. Three miles of this road has been constructed from the intersection. At present the property is reached by following the old road up Montana Creek Basin into Windfall Basin, a distance of four miles, and thence by trail a mile and a half to the property. A camp is located on the trail on Windfall Creek one-half mile below the showings. The last two miles of trail is a climb of over a thousand feet in elevation.

History and Development:

Gold was discovered on this property in placer form in a slide below the Falls tunnel in 1890 by James Smith and Gus Brown. Gold in quartz was also noted along the creek above the falls, but the discovery was not staked. In 1893 James Patton and James Smith recovered \$700 sluicing and noting the ore in place staked the property. Patton's interest was purchased by J. Heid for \$5,000. Clark Spencer became interested with Smith and in 1896 an arrastre was built ~~across and~~ above the Falls tunnel. A few ounces of gold was recovered. In 1897 a Mr. Tisdale bonded the property and started the two present crosscut tunnels. No. 1 tunnel was driven 150 feet and the No. 2 tunnel 90 feet. The vein was crosscut in the lower No. 1 tunnel, but quartz and values were lacking and the property was dropped. In 1900 Tom Smith and French Louis built the second arrastre on the same site as the first. Twenty tons of ore was milled and \$160 in gold was recovered and two tons of concentrates were saved. In 1904 the concentrates were packed half a mile below and the two tons of concentrates were milled. \$72 in gold was recovered from these two tons. This same year the property was examined by the Treadwell Mining Company, and also a Mr. Conrad examined it for other interests. In 1907 Tom Smith drove a few feet in the No. 2 tunnel and put in an incline raise cutting the vein. Following a small amount of work was done until 1914 when the property was dropped.

The property is referred to as the Smith-Heid group in Bull. 287, "The Juneau Gold Belt, Alaska," by A. C. Spencer, p. 129. A description of the tunnel workings is given in Bull. 502, "Eagle River Region, Alaska," by Adolph Knopf, p. 55.

For a considerable period of time prior to 1931 no work was done on the property. In 1931 four claims were staked by Tony Tarro. These claims contained the original Smith-Heid showings. Two years later Tarro took into partnership T. H. and C. T. Ashby and several more claims were staked. The Ashbys began sluicing the tops of the quartz outcrops and a few ounces of gold were obtained. In 1935 some of the claims were restaked by the above owners. Sluicing by the Ashbys was in progress on the date of visit.

Owners:

The ownership as to individual interests in the different claim groups is in dispute between T. Tarro and the Ashbys. Those holding interest with Tarro, are Frank Boyle and Jack Mullen. The dispute has mainly centered around the Tunnel No. 1 claim which contains the showings. This claim is one of the original tunnel claims staked by T. Tarro before he took into partnership the Ashbys. The Ashbys claim that all interests were pooled by the staking of further claims, and they equally hold two-thirds interest in the tunnel claim. They further claim that they have done without the aid of Tarro the representative assessment work for the last two years. Tarro claims that he has not shared in the proceeds of the gold sluiced from the tops of the orebodies.

Only the showings on the ~~T~~^{are} Tunnel No. 1 claim were visited. There are other tunnels and opencuts scattered on the different groups, but no work has been done and the showings were reported caved and filled. The development on the tunnel No. 1 claim consists of three tunnels and several opencuts. The total underground footage, including two short crosscuts and a short incline raise, is 563 feet. Plate No. 2 gives the total workings in detail.

Geology and Showings:

A short geological description of Windfall Creek is given at pp. 127-129 in U. S. G. S. Bull. 287. A description of this property is given in U. S. G. S. Bull. 502 at p. 55.

Generally, the showings on ~~T~~^{are} Tunnel No. 1 claim ~~is~~ along a mineralized zone that extends from Montana Creek Basin, northwest across Windfall Basin. This zone appears to be several hundred feet wide and consists of interbedded clay slate, graywacke schists and greenstone schists. Stringer lodes occur in the slates and greenstone schists. Quartz lenses occur along a contact of a narrow graywacke schist band contained in the greenstone schists. These lenses vary in length and width and have been subject to both faulting and folding. The general

strike of the formation is N. 35° to 40° NW. and dips vary considerably toward the northeast.

The showings are described in order as they occur beginning in the bed of Windfall Creek, southeast along the general strike over a distance of a thousand feet. Plate No. 1 shows the distributed workings with the geology shown in the trenches with samples located. Plate No. 2 shows the geology of the underground workings.

A stringer zone over 30 feet wide is exposed in the bed of Windfall Creek at the top of the water fall at an elevation of 1620 feet. This zone is in the greenstone schists and the clay slates. Small stringers and short lenses of a white to glassy quartz with a sparse amount of pyrite mineralization occur interbanded in the slates and schists. They vary in width up to 12 inches. They occur very irregularly and scattered. No samples were taken.

Following up the creek narrow bands of greenstone schists are enclosed in the slates, and they are accompanied by a small amount of mineralization. At a point 320 feet above the falls, and the center end post of tunnel No. 1 claim, a 20-foot band of sericite schist cuts across the creek. The schistosity of this band strikes N. 50° W. and dips 70° NE. This band has not been opened up and outcrops along each bank. On the date of visit snow covered the bed of the creek and only the bank outcrop was seen. The wall rocks of this band were not exposed sufficiently to be determined. Bulletin No. 502, p. 55 describes this band as:

"Somewhat above this tunnel (Falls tunnel), upstream is an outcrop of silvery-white fine-grained quartz sericite schist ribbed with narrow quartz stringers. In places it is highly mineralized, carrying finely granular galena, sphalerite, and pyrite, with which are also a little arsenopyrite and chalcopyrite. Red oxidized portions are said to pan gold. The belt of mineralized schist is at least 30 feet wide, but has not been investigated carefully."

The Falls tunnel, located a few feet above the creek on the south side, was driven 36 feet following the strike of the clay slates. Small veins occur in the cut over the tunnel, and a schisted zone with narrow veinlets occur in the tunnel. A channel sample across 2 feet, 4 inches taken at the face gave only a trace of gold and silver.

The long open-cut south and above the No. 1 tunnel shows a folded lense of quartz exposed 80 feet. This lense varies from a few inches to 4 feet in width. A 4-foot band of black schist overlies this lense and is contained in the folded and mineralized greenstone schist. The quartz is highly shattered and decomposed. Free gold was seen in several pieces. From this cut a few ounces of gold has been obtained by sluicing. The

greenstone schists on the hanging wall of this lense and in the south end of the cut contains small quartz stringers and both quartz and schists are well mineralized. This hanging wall schist is altered to a sericite schist. A four-inch quartz stringer, located in the south end of the cut, contains visible free gold. Four channel samples taken across the quartz lense as shown on Plate No. 1 assayed from a trace to .26 ounces of gold per ton. A stringer zone occurs in the greenstone schists below the quartz lense. This was not sampled.

Tunnel No. 1, located below the above quartz lense 60 feet vertically, has a total length of 290 feet and two crosscuts with lengths of 15 and 30 feet, respectively. The first 85 feet cuts greenstone schists, and then for a distance of 105 feet a band of clay slates, graywacke schists with small interbedded bands of green schists occurring along the tunnel. A crushed zone occurs with a width of 20 feet at a point a hundred feet from the portal. Quartz masses and stringers occur over the entire width of this zone, and assays as high as \$2 a ton were reported. At the end of the two crosscuts, and cutting across the tunnel at a point 120 feet in from the portal, a 4-foot band of graywacke schist occurs with greenstone schists. The dip of this band is 25° to the northeast. No quartz is associated with this band, but numerous stringers and veins occur in the slates toward the portal.

The next irregular cut south of tunnel No. 1 shows the same black schist band with three feet of quartz on the hanging wall of the band. A channel sample taken across the band and quartz gave results of 0.04 ounces of gold and 0.2 ounces of silver per ton. The east-west portion of the cut shows a small slip fault which strikes N. 76° W. and dips 70° N. This appears to have only a few feet displacement. The next three small cuts south show the black schist band only, in greenstone schists.

The large cut above tunnel No. 2 shows another quartz lense similar to the one over No. 1 tunnel. This lense is exposed 50 feet and varies in width from 18 inches to 5 feet. This banded lense occurs on the hanging wall of the black schist band and has a flat dip to the northeast.

Tunnel No. 2 is 40 feet under this outcrop and has a length of 145 feet and a 38-foot incline raise on the end. The entire length of the tunnel cuts graywacke schists and slate with four narrow greenstone schist bands in from the portal 40 feet. The contact of greenstone schists and slates was hit 5 feet from the bottom of the raise. At a point 30 feet, measured on the incline, the black schist band was cut with three feet, six inches of banded quartz and gouge on the hanging wall. The vein strikes N. 40° W. and dips with the schist band 22° NE. Greenstone schists form the hanging wall of the quartz. A channel sample taken across this vein assayed 0.59 ounces gold and 0.6 ounces silver per ton.

There has not been sufficient development on this property to determine average values of the stringer zones, schist belts or lenses. Further work is warranted. The band of sericite schist, which outcrops in the creek warrants uncovering.

Mineralization:

The mineralization of the quartz lense outcrops is described in Bull. No. 502, p. 55 as follows:

"The quartz carries considerable crystallized arsenopyrite and some galena, which, as a rule, is intimately intergrown with the arsenopyrite. Such ore is rather characteristic of this portion of the gold belt and here, as elsewhere, carries good values in gold."

Free gold was noted contained in the quartz at two locations, and the gold that was obtained by sluicing was very rusty and rough. Portions of arsenopyrite crystals were noted still clinging to the gold. Small seams of solid arsenopyrite were noted in between some of the slate bands.

The metallic minerals as they occur in order of abundance are: Arsenopyrite, pyrite, galena, sphalerite and gold.

The gangue minerals consist of white to glassy quartz, sericite, chlorite, graphite and altered rock pieces.

Water Power and Timber:

There is abundant timber of large size a few hundred feet below the outcroppings.

A small water power site could be developed from melting snow and rain water below the falls noted on Plate No. 1. Further, on the creek other very small sites might be obtained. The water flow, however, is so small that it could hardly be considered as power, but would furnish abundant water for milling.

TERRITORY OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF MINES
JUNEAU, ALASKA

Presented to

Tony Torro

April 7, 1938