

MR ALASKA GEN.
Livengood 49 ✓
Fairbanks 58TERRITORY OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF MINES
JUNEAU, ALASKA

November 27, 1951

MEMORANDUM REPORT

TO: Leo H. Saarela, Commissioner of Mines, Juneau, Alaska

FROM: James A. Williams, Associate Mining Engineer, Juneau, Alaska

SUBJECT: 1951 Mining Operations in the Fairbanks District of the Fairbanks Precinct.

The number of active placer operations in the Fairbanks District dropped this year, but interest in prospecting for lodes increased considerably and a fair number of recently-producing gold lodes are continuing to be at least maintained, if not actively operated. The increase in prospecting has been mostly in the search for tungsten ore, although the interest in antimony and uranium was not far behind. Proposed aid from the DMA for the development of strategic mineral deposits is without doubt the factor causing the increased activity in prospecting.

A detailed list of the mining operations is included with this report, and those listed but not mentioned in the report were mining about the same as in the previous season.

Earl Beistline acquired a large interest in the old Sanford Mine on Ester Dome and did some maintenance work and sampling there. The results of the sampling were very encouraging, and he is now endeavoring to get a hardrock miner to work with him on a percentage basis. Beistline experienced some trouble with individuals attempting to stake the ground illegally.

The four people, Mr. and Mrs. Paolini, Ed Ashby, and one other, who staked the Adler Property in the fall of 1950, are apparently still holding it and intending to do some mining as soon as possible. The Adler Property is also on Ester Dome.

William Birkliid, Elmer Stohl, Melvin Anderson, and Morris Rafn acquired a lease on the Stepovich scheelite property on Gilmore Dome, restaked the Colbert property just below it, and staked still more ground on Yellow Pup below the Colbert property. They have just recently been granted a \$172,000 D.M.A. loan for the development of the scheelite deposit there and expect to get under way as soon as possible. Plans are reported to call for the construction of two 25-ton mills, one of which will be for custom milling.

Kt 49-91

The Wolf Creek Mining Company got back into operation this year with their elevated sluice setup and a crew of five.

The Scrafford antimony property is in legal difficulties as a result of another party staking the ground at the same time as Howard Sparks was performing the assessment work on it.

K1 58-157

Emil Wickstrom moved an outfit in on Helmer Johnson's ground on Chatham Creek preparatory to mining there next year.

Kt 49-50

The Four-A Mining Company (Tury Anderson) was not active in the Fairbanks District this year. The company was dissolved and Anderson mined on Sumner Creek, tributary to Nome Creek. He will be mentioned again in the report on the outlying districts of the Fairbanks Precinct.

Kt 44-83
Kt 58-99

Five of their eight gold dredges were again operated this year by the Fairbanks Branch of the U.S.S.R.&M. Co. (locally known as the F. E. Co.). Dredge No. 6 moved at the start of the season from Ester Creek to the Gold Hill paystreak, a mile or two distant. The move was accomplished by first hydraulicking a canal, then filling the canal with water, floating the dredge, and towing it with tractors. The actual move was made in less than one shift and no particular difficulties were encountered. Photographs and an article covering the moving operation were carried in Jessen's Weekly.

Dredge No. 5 on Little Eldorado Creek was not able to dig up the right fork of the creek as far as was planned because of the steep grade and difficult bedrock conditions. This left considerable ground behind that was already stripped and thawed. Several small operators were bargaining with the company for a lease on this ground, and it was reported that Tury Anderson was the party who was finally awarded the lease. He is rumored to be purchasing a dragline for this operation.

The other F. E. dredges that were operated this year were No. 2 on Fairbanks Creek, No. 8 on Engineer Creek, and No. 10 on Cripple Creek. Stripping operations were carried on at Cripple, Fairbanks, Dome, Goldstream (Engineer), and Sheep Creeks and Gold Hill. Thawing plants were in operation at Fairbanks Creek, Eldorado Creek, Engineer Creek, Chatanika, and Gold Hill. The ditch camp at Long Creek was operated again, although the Company is planning on abandoning the big Davidson Ditch in another season or two, and as a result is spending as little as possible on ditch maintenance. The Company also did some drilling on Happy Creek and sank a shallow shaft on some antimony at McCarthy for assessment work. Peak employment for the Company was 550 men, but the average was around 450 for the season.

Respectfully submitted,

James A. Williams
James A. Williams

KX 58-163
In the same mineralized belt, over on Tungsten Hill between the leads of Steele and First Chance Creeks, Lloyd Lounsbury spent much time and effort trenching with a dozer to expose scheelite formations. The claims here are known as the Blossom Group. The deposit is of a lower grade than on Gilmore Dome, but it is fairly wide-spread and has possibilities of developing into a low grade open-cut operation. Lounsbury has also applied for a DMA loan, but it is not known at present whether the loan will be approved.

KX 49-57
Nick Kupoff was mining this year on Discovery Claim on Pedro Creek again, but his former partner, Tavitoff, is no longer with him.

KX 49-135
Charles Lazeration and Vern Jokela did not manage to take out any ore this year because of Jokela's continued trouble with an old leg injury. However, they are planning on an active mining operation in their Pedro Dome lode mine next year.

KX 49-259
Malter Lindgren and Associates did some more work on their Coffee Dome prospect, mostly sinking further in the shaft. They also did some prospecting above the head of Fox Creek where they turned up some high grade stibnite and found an area that is weakly radioactive. Further prospecting is planned for this area.

KX 49-82
Lindgren did some additional prospecting for Howard Sparks on the Tolovana property with a bulldozer. He found a gold vein that they claim is very promising. Mining on this property is still being held up by litigation and the settlement of Duane Franklin's estate. Sparks is planning on mining both gold and antimony here as soon as the legal difficulties are cleared up.

F. A. Bleecker was not active this year, and Dave Dittman also did not mine.

KX 58-197
"Moose John" Vuyovich died by suicide in the fall of 1950. His lode mine at Ester Dome has apparently been transferred to a brother in Europe.

KX 58-222
Eddie Verdin finally had to give up mining, as his legs will not carry him any more.

KX 49-170
The Wackowitz brothers are still working in their prospect tunnel on Bedrock Creek, tributary to Cleary Creek. They are also prospecting the vicinity for tungsten. Fred Wackowitz mined and shipped five tons of lead-silver ore from a prospect near the head of Willow Creek on Pedro Dome.

MR ALASKA GEN.

TERRITORY OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF MINES
JUNEAU, ALASKA

November 27, 1951

Memorandum Report

To: Leo H. Saarela, Commissioner of Mines, Juneau, Alaska
From: James A. Williams, Associate Mining Engineer, Juneau, Alaska
Subject: 1951 Mining Operations in the Outlying Districts of the Fairbanks Precinct except the Tolovana and Fortymile.

Since this report covers several small mining areas that are widely separated, comparative figures with last year's operations would mean little, if anything.

The Eagle Precinct is no longer in existence, since it was added to the Fairbanks Precinct early in the summer. It is now referred to as the Eagle District. This was another case of the U. S. Commissioner of the Precinct resigning and no one else being available or willing to take the position.

Kt 60-1
Kt 60-2

Barney Hansen, Otto Amund, and the Yukon Placer Mining Co. were the only three placer operators active this year in the Eagle District, while Fred Jenkins started to mine a gold lode proposition in that district. Jenkins installed a new 8-ton Straub ball mill and put about forty tons through it. He states that he uses corduroy riffles after the ball mill to catch the concentrate. He calls himself the Alaska Nickel Mining Co. because of a reported nickel-copper-cobalt-antimony-etc. lode that he has in the vicinity of Eagle that he wants to promote.

Kt 60-51

Bauer and Calich did not mine this year, nor did Dave Weston. Kt 60-16

Kt 49-143

The Alamco organization (Alaska-American Co., locally managed by Howard Sparks of Fairbanks and financed by Goldsmith Brothers Smelting and Refining Co. of Chicago) mined stibnite in the vicinity of Tok and in the Sawtooth Mountains between Livengood and Rampart.

Kt 69-7

The Alamco operation at Tok was on the old Sam Gamblin property on Boulder Creek. The prospects there were good and several favorable reports have been written on the property. However, Merrit Peterson, foreman on the job, reported that after two months' mining in which they took out approximately forty tons of stibnite, they ran completely out of ore and had to shut down.

4449-143
The venture in the Sawtooth Mountains turned out better. Starting out early in the year, they are still working there, and by now should be freighting out ore with a "cat" train. According to various amateur reports, they have been mining in a vertical ore shoot which resembles a pipe about 8 by 11 feet, and they have sunk about forty feet on this shoot. It looks as if it will continue. There is lower grade ore radiating out from the shoot which is being passed up. The location is 30 or 40 miles westerly across the tundra from Livengood, which distance can be traversed only with track vehicles. The plan is to freight the ore out during the winter with tractors. Three or four hundred tons have been mined thus far. An airstrip was stripped off at the bottom of the hill below the mine, but it has not yet been dry enough for summer use, and probably only small planes will be able to use it in the winter. An application was filed with the D.M.A. for money for an access road from the airstrip to the mine, (about four miles) but it was refused.

Jimmy Walters has been prospecting for a number of years in the vicinity of Dot Lake. He is looking for any sort of a lode deposit that might exist, and has sent numerous samples in to the College Assay Office for assay and identification. He is under the impression that he has some valuable finds, but his samples do not bear him out. However, the writer feels that an engineer from the Department should visit Walters' prospects with him just in case he should have something worthwhile, and especially since he has requested examinations several times. Dot Lake is located on the Alaskan Highway between the Johnson and Robertson Rivers.

KA 54-5
The only known activity in the Goodpaster country is that of William Eisenmenger, who was exposing a reported vein of stibnite near Tibbs Creek this summer. The writer had made arrangements to make an examination of the deposit for Eisenmenger when it was learned that both the Bureau of Mines and the U.S.G.S. had just been there, so the trip was cancelled.

G. B. Martin, who was mining Fred Campbell's ground near Richardson between Banner and Tenderfoot Creeks last year, did not mine this year.

KA 54-37
In the Salcha District, Brinker-Johnson Mining Company's dredge had another successful season and finally paid off the RFC debt in full. This memorable occasion was recorded in a big "spread" in Jessen's Weekly. Caribou Creek is nearly worked out, but they have another nearby creek fairly well proven out that they plan to move to.

The No Grub Mining Co. did not mine this year.

K+66-71
In the Kantishna District, reports on only two operations could be obtained. The Stampede Mines antimony mine was in steady production, and Hosler was still mining on Moose Creek. K+66-13

K+50-24
R. V. "Bob" Watkins found the new pay streak on the right limit of Faith Creek that he was prospecting for, and had a very successful season.

K+50-45
The idle Nome Creek Dredge belonging to the Morrison-Knudson Co. is reported to have been sold to the U. S. Tin Corp., and will be moved to the Seward Peninsula for dredging tin.

Tury Anderson spent part of the summer mining on Sumner Creek, tributary to Nome Creek, but did not stay the full season. He will be on Little Eldorado Creek on F.E. Co. ground next year.

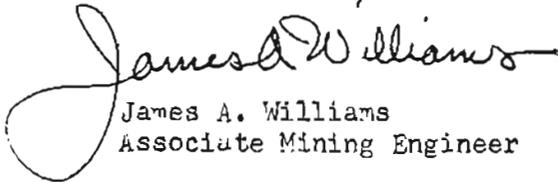
Orville Evans did not mine on Van Curler's Bar this year.

K+31-27
In the Chandalar, things are quiet again. The Sellars operation on Big Creek did not mine this year, and will not in the near future, for number of reasons, none of them being that the ground is not good.

K+31-24
Amero and Anderson and Webb each had their own project going, but they are all old men and not much is being accomplished.

To the extreme north, Lon Philpott is mining on the Firth River in a very unusual manner. He starts in the fall and locates likely-looking bars in the river. Later in the winter when they are frozen solid to bedrock, he blasts them loose with dynamite. Then he sets up a pyramidal tent over the bar, moves in a boiler and rocker, tubs, etc., and digs up the gravel all the way to bedrock, running it all through the rocker. This goes on all winter. When one bar is worked out, he blasts another one, and moves his tent. Since everything is frozen solid, there is no water to interfere with getting down to bedrock.

Respectfully submitted,


James A. Williams
Associate Mining Engineer

MINING OPERATIONS FOURTH DIVISION

FAIRBANKS PRECINCT

Outlying Districts Except Tolovana and Fortymile

1951

<u>Name and Address of Operator</u>	<u>Name and Location of Mine</u>	<u>Type of Operation</u>	<u>Crew</u>
Alamco, Fairbanks <i>kt 69-7</i>	Boulder Creek, Tok District	Antimony Lode	5
Alamco, Fairbanks <i>kt 49-143</i>	Sawtooth Mountains, Tolovana-Rampart Dist.	Antimony Lode	6
Amero, A. W., Chandalar	Big Creek, Chandalar District	Sniping	1
Amund, Otto, Eagle	Fox Creek, trib. to Seventymile River	Hydraulic	1
Anderson, Ellis, Chandalar <i>kt 31-24</i>	Tobin Creek, Chandalar District	Drift	1
Anderson, Tury, Fairbanks	Sumner Creek, trib. to Nome Creek	Bulldozer-Hydraulic	2
Brinker-Johnson Mining Co., 215 N. Carson Street Carson City, Nev. <i>kt 59-27</i>	Caribou Creek, Salcha District	Gold Dredge	18
Eisenmenger, Wm., Fairbanks <i>kt 54-5</i>	Tibbs Creek, trib. to Goodpaster River	Antimony Prospect	1
Hansen, Barney, Eagle	Alder Creek, Eagle District	Bulldozer	2
Hosler, D. G. and Elmer, Anchorage <i>kt 66-13</i>	Moose Creek, trib. to Kantishna River	Bulldozer	3
Jenkins, Fred, Eagle <i>kt 60-1 60-2</i>	Flume Creek, trib. to Seventymile River	Gold Lode	2
Philpott, Lon, Fairbanks	Upper Firth River	Sniping	1

Stampede Mines, Fairbanks	Stampede Creek, Kantishna District	Antimony Lode	3
Walters, Jimmy, Dot Lake	Vicinity of Dot Lake	Lode Prospects	1
Watkins, R. V., Fairbanks	Faith Creek	Bulldozer	3
Webb, H. L., Chandalar	Little Squaw Creek, Chandalar District	Drift	1
Yukon Placer Mining Co., Fairbanks	Fourth of July Creek, Eagle District	Bulldozer	2