

MINES BULLETIN

Vol. VIII

September, 1960

No. 9

MINING ACTIVITIES

FIRST DISTRICT - Admiralty Alaska Gold Mining Company at Funter Bay is drifting on the 200 level towards the copper-nickel Mertie Lode. The drift has been advanced to a total depth of slightly more than 5000 feet penetrating a broad zone of disseminated pyrite and pyrrhotite. The face of the drift is approaching the end of a diamond drill hole which was stopped by a large flow of water.

The JOT Mining Company who had planned to mine and ship several thousand tons of uranium ore this summer from the Kendrick Bay Mining Company pit and adjacent claims at Bokan Mountain have decided to defer mining operations until next spring.

A large group of iron ore claims on Cleveland Peninsula has been optioned to the Mt. Andrew Mining Company of Vancouver by Don Ross of Ketchikan. The property is at Vixen Inlet, a short distance from extensive holdings of U. S. Steel. A camp has been flown to the site by helicopter in preparation for an exploration program by the Canadian firm. The magnetic iron ore on the Ross claims was discovered during aerial prospecting last year by Ross using an airborne magnetometer of new design.

Alaska State Mines completed 350 feet of tunnels through the ice of Texas Creek Glacier near Hyder, Alaska this summer. Object of the work was to find a deposit of electrum under the glacier. Electrum was discovered in 1925 as float at the foot of the glacier and the lode in place mined on a small scale in 1937. Specimens from the deposit contain up to 3460 ounces of gold per ton--value, \$119,236.16 per ton.

SECOND DISTRICT - Bear Creek Mining Company is stepping up its drilling program on the Ruby Creek copper prospect north of Kobuk, and will continue its exploration there next year. This is the fourth season of drilling and other exploration. A crew of 40 to 45 men are presently at the camp. Two drills have been working until lately, when a third was put into operation. Two more drills were scheduled to arrive at the property early this summer, but low water on the Kobuk River prevented shipping them in until late August when rain finally raised the river sufficiently for the waiting tug and barge to go upstream. This makes it necessary for the drill crews to work later this year than before to complete planned drilling for 1960. The camp will stay open until sometime during October. A Canadian-manufactured Nodwell tracked truck is making daily freighting trips between the village of Kobuk, on the river, and the camp, a one-way distance of 14 miles.

The property at the Lost River Tin Mine on Seward Peninsula offered for sale August 8 by GSA has been awarded to Lenhart J. Grothe, Box 61, Red Devil, Alaska, on his high bid of \$21,777.



## GEOLOGIC REPORTS

The Geological Survey is releasing in open files the following reports:

1. Geologic Map of the Killik-Anaktuvuk Rivers Region, Brooks Range, Alaska by W. P. Brosge, H. N. Reiser, W. W. Patton, Jr., and M. D. Mangus. One map with explanation
2. Geologic Map of the Eastern Brooks Range, Alaska, by W. P. Brosge, J. T. Dutro, Jr., M. D. Mangus, and H. N. Reiser. Five maps, one explanation

Copies are available for consultation at 503 Cordova Bldg., Anchorage; Brooks Memorial Mines Bldg., College, Alaska; Room 117 Capitol Bldg., Juneau; and DM&M Office, Room 317, Alaska Office Bldg., Juneau. Copies from which reproductions of text and illustrations can be made at private expense are available at Alaskan Geology Branch, 345 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park, California.

## MINERALS ELIGIBLE FOR EXPLORATION ASSISTANCE

The Department of the Interior on August 17, announced that changes in minerals eligible for exploration assistance proposed in the Federal Register on June 22, 1960 will become effective with final publication of the Federal Register soon. As a result of these changes, the OME may now consider applications for exploration assistance in search for all types of beryllium-bearing ores and nonstrategic as well as strategic types of asbestos ores. Application forms and additional information may be obtained from Office of Minerals Exploration, Washington 25, D. C.; OME, Region 1, South 157 Howard Street, Spokane 4, Wash.

## MINING ASSESSMENT WORK CAN BE DEFERRED IN CLOSED AREAS

Where areas are closed to the public during periods of extreme fire danger in the western States, annual assessment work required of mining claimants can be temporarily deferred, the Department of the Interior announced August 22, 1960. Where such conditions exist the local BLM land office manager can grant a deferment of mining claim assessment work upon application to the manager by the claimant. Each individual application will be decided on its merit. A deferment would be granted only after the mining claimant had submitted proof of exclusion from an area. The deferment would only be temporary and any deferred work would have to be performed during the next assessment year. A deferment could not be used as an excuse for not doing assessment work.

## MINING REGULATIONS HEARINGS

This fall, in November if possible, hearings will be held jointly by the Division of Mines and Minerals and the Division of Lands on proposed regulations to govern hardrock mining and mineral leasing on State-owned lands. The term "hardrock" in this case means the mining or leasing of locatable minerals and includes placer mining. It does not include the Leasing Act minerals, regulations for which have already been adopted. Hardrock, or locatable, minerals can be staked on State-owned public domain the same as on Federal public



main, but may not be perfected to patent status. Certain classifications of land will prohibit normal staking and only mineral leasing will be allowed in these cases. (See our Bulletin of last February for a discussion of mineral rights on State-owned lands).

The proposed regulations will be under the general heading of "Mineral Rights" and will be under the primary jurisdiction and administration of the Division of Lands. However, because of the subject matter, the Division of Mines and Minerals is participating in drafting the regulations and holding the hearings. Robert H. Saunders, Mining Engineer of this Division, has drafted the proposed regulations. The proposed main section headings presently include: General Provisions, Lands Available, Qualifications of Entrymen and Lease Applicants, Tunnel Sites, Mineral Entry--Lode Claims, Mineral Entry--Placer Claims, Mining Leases, Mill Sites, Water Rights, and Practice and Procedure. After further consideration and minor changes in conference between the two Divisions, the proposed regulations will be sent to all who request them as far in advance of the hearings as possible. The hearings are presently planned for Anchorage, Fairbanks, Nome, Ketchikan, and Juneau, and will be advertised 30 days in advance as required by law. Persons wishing advance copies of the proposed regulations should notify the Division of Mines and Minerals, Box 391, Juneau to be put on a mailing list to receive them as soon as they are ready.

#### CLAIM INFORMATION SOUGHT

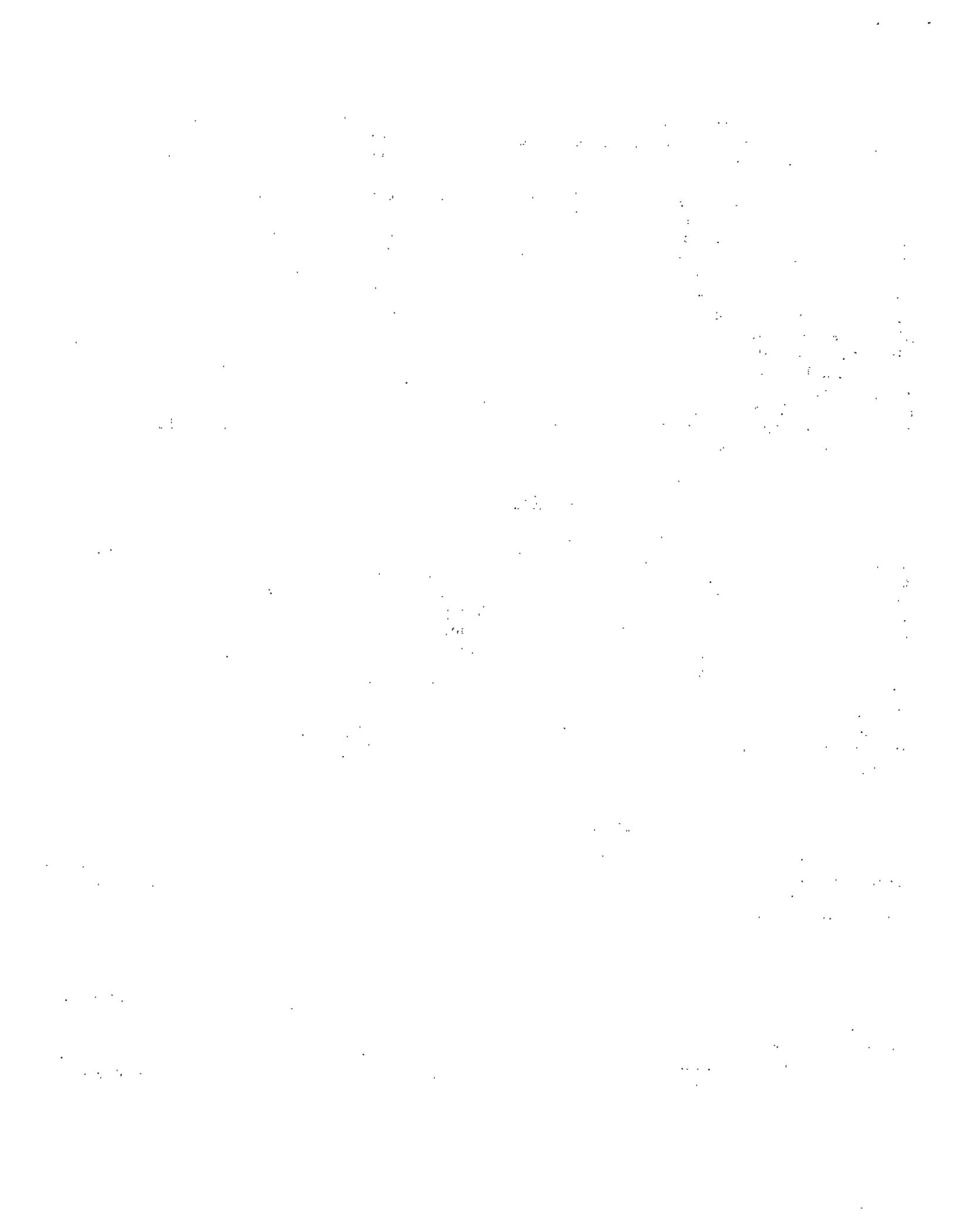
Before giving the State title to lands which the State has selected, the U. S. Bureau of Land Management must determine that the selected land contains no valid mining claims. The BLM is presently advertising to find the owners of old claims in two areas: northwest of Haines and northeast of Wrangell. The claims involved were staked from 1898 to 1926. If the owners of these claims do not appear in answer to the advertisements by about mid-September, their claims will be considered abandoned and the land will be patented to the State. Diligent search has been made and advertising is the last resort. The BLM urges all claim holders in the two areas to contact them at Box 2511, Juneau. The locators of the claims for which information is sought are the following: James Irvine, Jos. L. Thatcher, J. Carter, Frank Vicentin, James Cannon, W. G. Price, J. C. McGarther, Wilson Foster, Kristian Geureuninsen Bye, A. S. Kaufman, W. A. Kelley, Alaska Gold Quartz and Placer Mining Company, Ed. W. Gilman, Chester Glass, W. F. Woodridge, John F. Delaney, Anna . Durken, H. A. Smith, Jas. Mulroy, William Foster, and J. H. Lock.

#### TYONEK BOMBING AND GUNNERY RANGE

The 1,210,000 acre Tyonek Bombing and Gunnery Range on the west side of Cook Inlet has been returned to the public domain. The vast tract which extends from Pt. Harriet to the Beluga River and inland to the Alaska Range was withdrawn in 1941. The State of Alaska has first choice of lands for the next 90 days.

#### OIL NEWS

Construction of the natural gas pipeline from Kalifonsky Beach on the Kenai Peninsula to Anchorage has encountered unique difficulties in the 8 mile submarine section crossing Turnagain Arm. Strong winds, rip tides, abrasive glacial silt and a 20 to 30-foot tide differential combine to make this submarine pipe laying one of the most difficult pipeline jobs in the world. As a result of some experiments made with a 20 ton, seven-foot-



gh plow, which will cut a submarine trench seven feet deep, tapering from 32 inches wide at the bottom to 52 inches wide at the top, the rate of cutting the trench will have to be at 30 feet a minute to keep ahead of natural back filling caused by water and gravity action. It is reported that 20 miles of similar trench in Louisiana with the plow caused less wear on the device than did 2000 feet of experimental plowing in Turnagain Arm.

Possibility of bringing gas from the Kenai Fields into Fairbanks, as an extension of the gas line now being constructed into Anchorage, is being explored by the Alaska Pipeline Company. The Commonwealth Services and Delta Engineering Corp. have been retained to make engineering and economic feasibility studies on extension of the present pipeline.

Two Congressional bills of interest to the petroleum industry are presently awaiting the President's signature. S. 3434 will allow the State to make selections of land which may contain part of a mineral lease. Until now, the State has had to select land so as to either include or exclude the entire lease. H. R. 10455 is a major amendment to the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 and will require, among other things, the payment of not less than 50¢ per acre for each year of the lease. This will increase the rental cost per acre for the five-year lease term from \$1.00 to \$2.50. The acreage limitation per lease holder will be raised to 300,000 acres north of the Tanana and Yukon Rivers and 300,000 acres south of the two rivers for a total of 600,000 acres.

ETCETERA

Donald J. Cook will be Acting Head of the Department of Mining and Metallurgy at the University of Alaska during the 1960-61 term. Earl Beistline, Dean of the School of Mines, has accepted a temporary appointment as Dean of the Faculty at the University.

E. AND M. J. METAL MARKET PRICES

	Aug. 25, 1960 --	Month Ago	Year Ago
Copper, per lb.	33.0¢	33.0¢	30.0¢
Lead, per lb.	12¢	12¢	12¢
Zinc, per lb.	13¢	13¢	11¢
Tin, per lb.	102.5¢	103.4¢	102.6¢
Nickel, per lb.	74¢	74¢	74¢
Platinum, per oz.	\$81-85	\$81-85	\$76-80
Quicksilver, per flask	\$209-212	\$211-214	\$229-232
Silver, foreign, New York	91.4¢	91.4¢	91.4¢
Silver, domestic, per oz.	90.5¢	90.5¢	90.5¢
Antimony ore, per unit	\$3.30-3.35	\$3.30-3.35	\$3.10-3.20
Chrome ore, per long ton	\$35-36	\$35-36	\$35-36
Titanium ore, per ton	\$23-26	\$23-26	\$23-26
Tungsten ore, per unit	\$24-25	\$24-25	\$19-22
Molybdenum conc., per lb.	\$1.25	\$1.25	\$1.25
Beryllium ore, per unit	\$46-48	\$46-48	\$46-48

