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copy of Asbestos report  
by T. B. O'Grady. (1)

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Report

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Copy of resulting Press Release  
on file 35-A & 580.

Preliminary Report  
On Asbestos occurrences  
North-West of McDame Lake, Stikine M.D.

The approximate location of these asbestos occurrences is shown on the enclosed tracing of part of the accompanying advance of an unfinished Topographical map, scale 1 inch - 2 miles, which was lent to the writer by Stanley Bridecut of McDame Lake who was given it by the Topographer. It is requested that it be returned to him via Lower Post after photostatic copies have been made for Department use. It is understood that the completed map will not be available for publication for some months yet. For probable geological relationships reference should be made to Geological Survey Map No. 381A accompanying Memoir 194, Eagle-McDame area. I enclose two sketch-maps made by the prospectors who staked the claims. These maps of claims in two widely separated areas are only rough and not to scale but may be helpful in the absence of a survey.

All the claims are recent stakings, the discoverers having been Vic \* Sittler (Rugged Group) and John Bartle (Asbestos Group). The rough layout of the claims and their owners is shown on the sketch-maps referred to, the two areas being about 4 (four) miles apart.

The southerly area (Rugged Group and adjacent claims) is reached by road 83 miles in length from the Alaska Highway at Mile 648 to Snowy Creek, the first 70 miles of which is the road to Moccasin Camp and the last 13 miles is the road up McDame Creek. Both roads are in bad condition and need relocation in places as described in separate reports but are passable for four wheeled drive vehicles and dual wheel trucks. Difficulty is experienced with these vehicles

\* Corresp. on file 580.

after a wet spell and traffic is limited to a few months in summer and fall. From Snowy Creek a horse trail is followed for about 4 miles to Quartz Camp (originally known as "Quartz City"). This trail is not suitably located for conversion into a road and for this purpose would have to be relocated for the greater part. The existing trail crosses Snowy Creek 5 times in less than one mile at which places it is forded by horses. A preliminary investigation of a new location was made and no difficulty is anticipated in construction of a road. There would be no bridges to build other than the one over Quartzrock Creek at Quartz Camp. At this point its width is about 100 feet, and it was shallow enough for us to ford it with the horses (July 12th and 18th). Bridging this creek would not be expensive if piers of rock cribbing with short stringer spans were constructed. From Quartz Camp to the Rugged Group and adjacent claims the distance covered was about 8 miles roughly estimated. Beyond Quartz Camp the trail goes over the nose of a ridge for about half a mile to where it descends into the broad flat valley of Troutline Creek which is followed for about 5 miles to the junction of this creek and its 1st North Fork. Throughout this 5 mile section and the  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles up the 1st North Fork to the Rugged Group no trail is distinguishable, the area being densely grown up with buckbrush. In the upper part of the valley there are scattered clumps of small jackpine among the everpresent brush which extends up the 1st North Fork. Construction of a road up Troutline Creek should present no difficulty if it is located on dry ground along the gently sloping side-hill north of the creek. In the bottom of the valley the ground is boggy in many places. There would be no bridges to be constructed in this section and the road would be practically level following a little below the 4000 foot contour. Going up the 1st North Fork to our tent camp below the Rugged Group and adjacent claims the average grade would be less than 10 per cent but the ground is rough and broken involving more expensive construction in this  $2\frac{1}{2}$  mile section. The elevation at our camp was 4150 feet and at the asbestos showings on the mountain above it was 6250, the intervening talus slopes being steep.

To reach the northerly stakings (Olivine and Chrysotile Groups) the 1st North Fork was followed northerly to and over the pass at its head (elevation of pass: 4550 feet) for about 6 miles, the summit country being of a wide and fairly even nature, dotted with small lakes and ponds, the growth consisting of scattered clumps of small evergreens amongst the brush. At the 6 mile point a turn was made easterly following the 4500-foot contour around the base of two mountains separated centrally by a north-westerly flowing unnamed tributary of Blue River, this latter distance being about 6 miles making 12 miles in all by the route followed between the northerly and southerly stakings. The valleys are lightly wooded chiefly with small scattered evergreens, dense buckbrush being in evidence everywhere at lower altitudes. The Olivine and Chrysotile claims cover mountainous ground from 5000 to 6000 feet elevation.

Troutline Creek would seem to be the logical route to reach the southerly stakings. The distance from Quartz Camp to the Rugged Group area by that route is about 8 miles and to the Olivine - Chrysotile area is about 20 miles. If it was warranted by future discoveries and exploration a separate route to the latter area might be located via Quartz rock Creek. This distance being about 12 miles roughly estimated. The return trip was made by the latter route first along a north-westerly flowing unnamed tributary of Blue River then in a curving generally southerly direction along Quartzrock Creek to Quartz Camp.

Discoveries of asbestos, chiefly cross fibre with some slip fibre and irregular seams, have recently been made in belt of serpentine striking a little east of north and dipping at about 45 to 50 degrees to the south-east at points examined. This belt extends for an unknown distance beyond the eight mile section in which it was traced. The claims cover portions of this serpentine belt along the upper slopes of the steep, bluff topped mountains. The general trend of the serpentine is indicated by the staked areas marked on the enclosed tracing. Where observed it is overlain by a prominent band several hundred feet wide of dense dark rock which forms the summits at elevation of from 6000 to 6500 feet or more. Underlying the serpentine there is apparently first

slate with limestone at the base of the series but conditions are generally obscured by talus and rockslides. Serpentine rocks in southerly portions of the Eagle-McDame area, Geological Survey Map 381A, have been tentatively assigned to the Jurassic Granitic rocks of the Cassiar batholith (Cretaceous and, or, Jurassic) extend in a north-east by east direction roughly paralleling the serpentine and associated strata. Opposite the Rugged Group and adjacent claims the granitic rocks (locally pegmatite granite) are exposed a short distance west of the 1st North Fork of Troutline Creek and are part of a large area of batholithic rocks obviously connecting with those mapped in the north-west corner of Map 381A.

Specimens of various types of rocks and of asbestos have been sent to the Department for examination. The serpentine investigated at widely separated points varied in colour from light to dark green and contained asbestos in varying stages of development, the cross-fibre similar to the specimens sent you being of common occurrence in bluffs, shattered rock masses and float, Mineralization in eroded areas is indicated by Conglomerations of woolly masses of soft fibrous material. The abundance of this material in talus slopes among fragments of serpentine is impressive. The serpentine in the area covered is mostly badly eroded leaving remnants in the form of scattered outcrops and piles of shattered rocks. It is therefore difficult to trace continuity of mineralization but such continuity is frequently indicated by the eroded remnants.

On the Rugged Group where conditions can be described a little more definitely, continuity is indicated for a length of 900 feet (plus) and a width of 160 feet, only the upper contact of the zone being exposed. In this 900-foot section continuity is evidenced by mineralization in bluffs and shattered large rock masses in situ which are found at frequent intervals throughout a length of 400 feet at the southerly end of the area examined. These are on the Rugged No. 3 and 5 claims from which most of the specimens sent you are derived. At the northerly <sup>end</sup> of the Rugged No. 5 claim substantial irregular areas of shattered erosion remnants containing asbestos are exposed in a small basin and similar remnants are

*continuity of  
serpentine  
or of mass?*

exposed further to the north on the Blanchard Nos. 3 and 4 claims.

On the Rugged No. 3 claim the percentage of asbestos cross fibre was measured in part of an outcrop measuring 33 feet long, 13 feet wide, and 15 feet high. In this outcrop a rock face 8.7 feet high contained the following arrangement of cross fibre seams measuring from top to bottom:

<u>Feet</u>	<u>Width of seams in inches</u>
0 - 3.2	Serpentine
3.2	3/4
5.0	3/4
6.2	1/10
6.4	1/4
6.7	1/2
6.8	1/2
7.2	3/4
7.7 - 8.7	3 small seams averaging 1/4
8.2 feet	7/8

64  
 3 3/4  
 3 3/4  
 2 1/2  
 2 1/2  
 3 3/4  
 7/8

In addition, slip fibre and irregular fine seams were present. The rest of the outcrop was well mineralized including 1 inch seams and seams from 1 7/8 to 2 inches where two seams had run together. Other outcrops in the 400-foot long section previously referred to were also well mineralized.

A major exploratory undertaking would be involved to investigate the potentialities of this serpentine area, no work having been done as yet and nothing been known of conditions in the four mile long serpentine area separating the two sets of claims nor of possible extension of the belt. Asbestos occurrences have been reported in another part of the district but no claims have been staked there as yet.

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