

A Close Look At Mineral Deposits Here

by Mary-Ann Ruiters

Dr. Neil Church, who is with the Mineralogy Branch of the B.C. Department of Mines has spent the last two months in the Houston area mapping and taking samples in and near mineralized areas.

The three areas the two worked were Grouse Mountain, the Sibola Range and a prospect near the present Bradina Mine.

Dr. Church, who has a doctorate in Geology goes out on field work for several months every summer. His maps and geological findings are then studied and compiled in winter and a book is published.

There are twelve others in the mineralogical branch of the B.C. Department of Mines who do similar work and compile similar reports on their areas. The findings of the branch are published in the work "Geology Exploration and Mining in British Columbia."

The men spent one month in the Grouse Mountain area. Main owners of mining properties in that area is Copper Ridge and the L'Orsa Brothers. "There are a number of small widely scattered deposits of copper, zinc, and silver there," said Church, said there were twelve mineral showings on the mountain top. "There has been activity up

there since 1915."

The geologist updated their maps on that area including trenching and other work done. Grouse Mountain is located ten miles from Houston west on Highway 16.

A second area studied was the Sibola Range. "There are some recent brand new exciting discoveries here," stated Dr. Church.

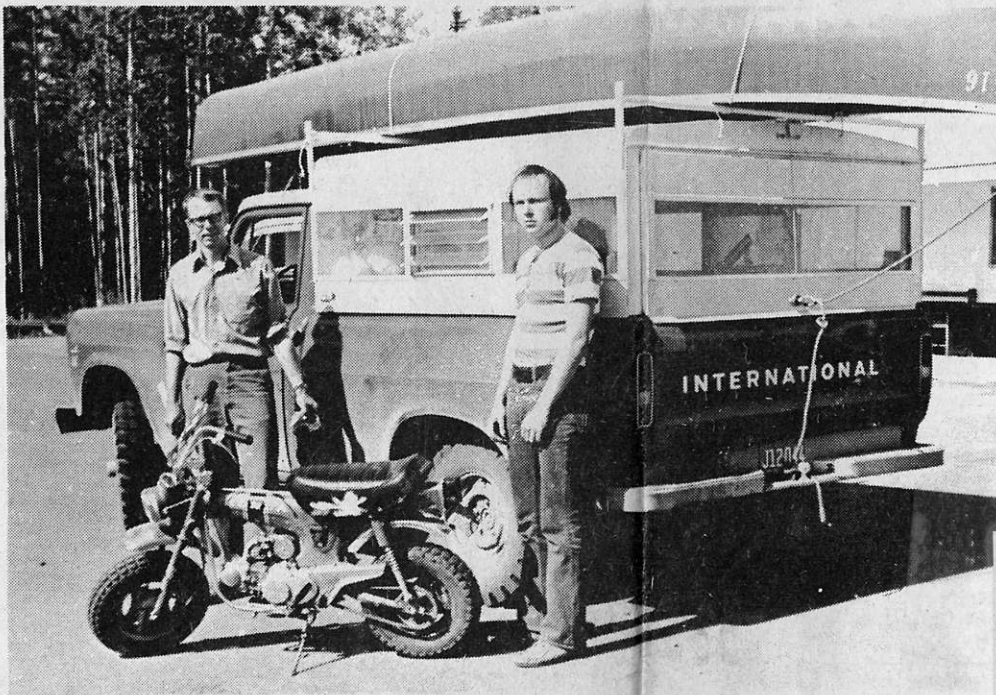
Sibola Range is located 40 miles up the Morice River Road. The range is highly mineralized. One producing silver and precious metals mine the "Emerald Glacier Mine" is located within this range.

One of the latest discoveries in the Sibolas is what is known as "The Bergette." This was discovered in 1970. The claims are owned by George Stewart who has lived in the Houston area for a number of years.

Granges Exploration A.B. has optioned the property and have contracted with George Stewart to spend 60,000 on the property this year. Most of the money will be spent on trenching and diamond drilling.

Dr. Church said this property was mainly copper. The mineral is of a low grade high tonnage type he said.

He and his assistant spent two weeks at the "Bergette" location where they did considerable detailed mapping work on the ore body and on the geological formations in



B.C. Department of Mines men need equipment to get into some of the most remote parts of B.C. Dr. Neil Church and his assistant Grant Malcolm use the 4-wheel drive truck, a sturdy trail bike, and a canoe to reach their destinations. Dr. Church has been doing regional mapping work and detailed mapping of developing mineral showings in the Bulkley Valley and Lakes District.

that region. "The Sibolas are really an area where copper and molybdenum are frequently found," Church commented.

A major find in the Sibolas is "The Berg". "It is a major property and has the potential of a future mine," Church said. The property is owned by Kennco and Church said that

"they are probably waiting for an increase in the price of copper to start an operating mine." He said projections were that Kennco would probably have "The Berg" producing in a few years. "The Berg" was discovered in 1964 and is composed mainly of copper. The location is not very accessible but good

truck roads could be built into the area. There are silver and molybdenum showings in that same ore body.

Church said that Kennco also had a molybdenum find near Whiting Creek. "It is a good find but not high grade. It is a prospect and it is not yet known if it could become a producing mine."

The third property worked on by the Department of Mines geologists was a property directly north-west of Nadina Mountain and owned by Anacoda Mines.

"Silver is what they are after there," Church stated. He said "it is not going to be a big thing but work is being done on it every year."

Trenching was done on the property this year and possibly next year diamond drilling would start.

"The setting of this mine is very similar to Nadina," Church said. The Anaconda property is very accessible as it is just next to the road.

In addition to studying definite claim areas regional mapping is a major part of Dr. Church's work.

Regional mapping shows how mineralization came to be and whether there are relations between ore bodies.

Dr. Church left for the Lakes District last week where he will study several claim properties at Decker Lake and Tchesinkut Lake.

His findings in the area will be published in the 1971 book called Geology, Exploration, and Mining in B.C.