

REPORT
ON
COAST EXPLORATION 1961
&
SUGGESTIONS FOR
FUTURE PROSPECTING

MINING DIVISION

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COAST EXPLORATION 1961

AND

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE PROSPECTING

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COAST EXPLORATION 1961

AND

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE PROSPECTING

GENERAL

Exploration on the Coast during the 1961 field season was of a minor nature as most of the time was spent testing properties found the previous season. Such properties included Bacon Lake, Upper Bonanza, Gem Lake, Miller, Lower Bonanza and Catface. Despite eight major moves requiring the construction of six camps and "hard to get" helicopters along with associated delays of over two weeks, our 2-man drill crew using the Longyear and Packsack machines in some of the wildest set-ups imaginable accounted for 7000 feet of diamond drilling between February and November with an average per working day of well over 30 feet. Up to 90 feet of drilling per day was recorded at Gem Lake. Despite numerous breakdowns of the Longyear drill due to poor workmanship in construction, and providing aluminum rod is used, the machine would appear to have proved its usefulness in this role of preliminary testing to depths of almost 400 feet. Properties drilled will be described separately.

Failure of the airmag equipment at crucial times prevented any worthwhile continuation of our iron prospecting program, though some work was done. No work was started on Banks Island or on Mecate Islands Prospecting.

In total less than 75 helicopter hours were used on Coast Exploration, about equally divided between airmag work and General Exploration. The Pali float plane was used directly on exploration for about 100 hours and otherwise was used intermittently in a ferrying capacity. Short trips were made employing Island Airlines of Campbell River and

Vancouver Island Helicopters of Victoria. Both were found quite satisfactory.

Our crew for the year included John Schussler (driller), Phillip Lang (helper), Gene Evans (prospector and handy-man), Stan Bridcut (pilot and prospector) part time, Dave Kimball (prospector) part time, and the writer. Mike Donahue and Tom Cross helped with some of the early work at Beacon Lake, Bonanza and Catface. Visitors included Alex Smith to Catface and Don Salt to Bonanza; we were quite inaccessible, the helicopter being in the Revelstoke area most of the time.

Equipment-wise we derived much benefit from the small walkie-talkies bought this spring and proved that the self-potential equipment works excellently on Bonanza-type magnetite and/or chalcopyrite bodies. The Alser mag was a dismal failure, wasting much of our time, and is now in for check-up after failing field tests conducted by Don Salt. Soil-testing, except for delimiting regional blocks with higher copper backgrounds, was found to be quite useless for localizing targets, probably because of excessive surface water dispersion.

NEW PROSPECTS (Numbered locations on Map P-61)

South of Gen Lake (1) beyond our staked claims and only a mile from a logging road, while checking a zone outlined for him following a Super-Cub recon, Dave Kimball discovered several small gold veins along a well-beaten horse trail. A large sample collected of the three veins assayed over 1/2 oz. gold and 10 oz. silver. The veins, three of which comprise a 2 or 3 foot wide lode, are only partially exposed for 50 feet in a largely overburdened area. They occur as northerly-striking offsets to a through-going east-west fault structure in a very limited exposure

of quartz-diorite just below its contact with overlying country rock Kamaitzen? volcanics. Widths are small - a few inches or so - but structure is strong and the showing will be staked and prospected. The veins (tension fracture control?) are reportedly vertical (a good sign) and the favourable contact with the volcanics along strike to the north warrants a close check. The showing has not yet been examined by the writer.

In the same geological setting - i.e. near the contact of an underlying, sparingly exposed intrusive with overlying volcanics, but a few miles away on the Cruickshank River (2) a similar vein, described by Bob McIver as being a foot wide and running for some distance, could unfortunately not be relocated using McIver's directions. However, eight claims (MIF) were staked to cover the ground, and McIver will try to relocate the showing (which reportedly assayed "high" in gold) this winter if snowfall is not too severe. We have a 10% agreement with him on this property. While looking for this "lost mine", we discovered a 50 x 100 foot exposure of magnetite. Several miles to the northwest Bralorne once drilled a flat-lying gold-quartz vein, and the presence of this coupled with our own findings lend weight to these "lost mine" stories.

Both #1 and #2 are within the E & N Land Belt (see previous reports) but the railway company does not hold rights to gold or silver.

In the Dunbar Lake (3) area three copper-stained bluffs were recorded but not prospected while flying airmag late in the season in an untested 5-mile by 1-mile belt geologically suitable for mineralization. One of the showings occurs within a provincial park, a logging road coming to within 1/4 mile of it, but the other two are well outside. A ground party is needed to check these and some work may yet be done this year.

(December 7). Samples taken late in the season on snow-covered talus showed chalcopyrite and pyrite disseminated in greenstones. A large composite sample assayed 2.18% copper, 0.10 oz. gold and 0.7 oz. silver. The park can be prospected but only under the rigid control of the department of the B.C. government concerned.

A few miles east of #3 in the vicinity of the Golden Hind Peak (4) a number of quartz veins and gossans were sampled but showed nothing of interest.

On Espinosa Peninsula (5) in the Zeballos area and using the flux gate airmag on one of its better days, we located the source of some magnetite float found by Harry Clements. The showing, on a granitic-volcanic contact, was dip-needled and found to be too small to bother with although Clements will continue prospecting the area.

On Graham Island in the Queen Charlottes (6) a large deposit of perillite was discovered (as predicted in previous reports). The showing was staked but not recorded as Q.M.I. tests showed it to be of inferior grade. There could well be better material in the area as obsidian is now known to be widespread but we received little encouragement to look for more.

Ground prospecting along the old E & W boundary southeast of Cowichan Lake (7) resulted in the re-discovery of a 100-foot square, good grade magnetite deposit casually mentioned in an old line survey report seen by the writer. As we are not immediately interested in a body of this size and as our dip-needle and airmag surveys did not show it to continue beyond this, we are allowing Mr. W. H. Forrest, who was most active in tracing it down, to deal with it as he wants. The showing is on the British Columbia side of the E & W border. Little work was done

on favourable ground on the E & W land as a local prospector was given exclusive rights to this section of Canada simply by applying and guaranteeing work.

Sphalerite was detected in a large schistose limy remnant discovered in the Coast Range north of Owikeno Lake (8).

A number of other discoveries of no immediate importance were made and will be marked on Map P61 when time permits. The better of these are between Kitimat and Owikeno Lake. Bob McIver, now of Bella Coola, recently showed the writer some very pure white quartzite and perlitic obsidian and was advised to look into these further as both are near the coast.

Properties checked or examined this year included the following:

1. Iron owned by Art Aubuchon of Campbell River, near Doctor Bay on Rhodonda Island (December).
2. A newly discovered bornite showing in a road-cut in volcanic rocks north of the Kitimat River (Doug Albert - May).
3. Manganese (rhodonite) in the Cowichan Area (April).
4. Bugaboo Iron (Moranda) - (April).
5. Greerock Creek Copper - Campbell River area (April).
6. Red Island (Quatsino) Iron-Copper (D.H.)

Using the cobra drill a rock cut was put in on Campania silica and several hundred pounds of samples collected. A similar cut was put in on the Apex showing south of Tasa. The "Site" mineral claim was staked to cover a lapsed location held for the last five years by C. N. & S. and a cut put in for assessment purposes on the small magnetite body contained.

Work on the coast done by others and of interest to us include:

1. The optioning of Skoglund's magnetite at the center of our Hiller

Group by Utah and in the same area a similar option on the Churchill deposit by Zehallos Iron.

2. The development of a multi-million ton high grade magnetite deposit by Noranda at Maggie Lake.

3. Air mag work by Cons. Dennison on the Queen Charlottes and a reported discovery of importance.

4. Work on the Power Lake magnetite by Rio Tinto.

5. Airmag work by Springers interests as well as by Noranda and Utah.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE PROSPECTING

Using a helicopter and pilot with the capabilities of those recently employed a great deal of useful prospecting can yet be done on Vancouver Island, particularly in the section Ucluelet to Qmitsino. Most of the area is drift-covered and luxuriant forest growth is the order, preventing normal prospecting procedures. However, there are enough rock bluffs and creek cuts in this lightly prospected section to permit geological evaluation and ground follow-ups. Elsewhere on Vancouver Island the prospects previously referred to are a must.

More detailed checks could well be carried out in the roof pendants north and south of Ovikano Lake. The Hecate Islands prospecting program, not yet completed, now includes additional interesting zones spotted this year during ferry trips. For the above work a helicopter, used as outlined during good weather (summer season), is also a must as otherwise we have no jump on anyone else.

We have yet to finish drilling Banks Island Gold (9) at depth (insufficient time this year) and associated prospecting is still in order.

EQUIPMENT

Exploration-wise we are well equipped. Our old jeep, however, is sick and well beyond the point where the money required to properly repair it alone could be returned even on trade-in the next day. This has been an extremely handy vehicle. We possibly could replace it with a similar vehicle or a heavy duty Land Rover (Kennecott locally has a fleet of 8 Land Rovers and 2 station wagons.).

Vancouver, B. C.
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