

The Iva Fern is presently held by the following: - Mrs. E. Weaver, 1315 Robertson Ave., Nelson owns the Excelsior L.12657 C.G. and the Black Cap L.12654 C.G. W.B.Jorgenson owns the Standard L.12658 C.G. and Eric Denny and Jack Denny own the Fern L.12656 C.G. and the three reverted Crown grants Iva L.12655, Gem L.12652, Jewel L.12653 or a total of 7 claims altogether.

No work of any importance has been done on these claims since 1930 at which time they were accessible from Tye on Kootenay Lake by 8 miles of trail only. Until 1931 when the railway between Procter and Kootenay Landing was completed the only connection that Tye had with the rest of the world was by paddle wheel steamer or smaller boats on the lake. Today a road from Ymir goes up Porcupine Creek and down Cultus Creek to Tye and passes beside the south boundary of the Gem (the most southerly and lowest claim of the group. A branch road goes within a mile of the three upper claims where most of the development has taken place. Surface rights to the ground are held by Darkwoods Forestry Ltd. Distance from the highway just south of Ymir is approximately 18 miles by good logging road. The claims are shown on Nat. Top. Map 82F/7W. They extend from 4100 ft. up to 6400 ft. on the north side of Cultus Creek so they face south and should be bare of snow to the top of the hill by June 15. Parts of the old trail are still in fair shape but the old cabins at the mine are beyond repair. Both portals are caved and many of the open cuts are partially sloughed in. No shipments were ever made as transportation was a severe problem at the time the claims were worked. The Great Depression was in full swing when work ceased.

The only government geological mapping of this area was by H.M.A. Rice from 1936 to 1938 and published in 1940 (reprinted in 1956) and accompanying Memoir 228 Nelson Map-Area-East Half - at a scale of 1 inch equals 4 miles. Rice places the Iva Fern in the Horse thief Creek Series which consists of "green, argillaceous quartzite; blue-grey limestone, arkose, pebble conglomerate." Granitic rocks outcrop to the east and lamprophyre dykes accompany the mineralization in places. Some of the ore is brecciated. The old reports in the Annual Reports of the Minister of Mines appear accurate as far as the writer has been able to determine. These reports together with the copy of the Miners Western underground plans (compiled from C.M. & S. plans of 1920, 1929 & 1930) give a good idea of the values, widths and types of mineralization encountered in the surface workings and underground. Apparently there has been no stoping done. This plan shows the main drift as having continuous mineralization of tunnel width for 600 ft. and is open at both ends with several open cuts on surface proving the upward continuation of the ore.

The 500 ton pile of sorted ore is still there together with small piles at many of the open cuts and some lower grade ore scattered through the various dumps.

Similar mineralization shows on the southside of Cultus Creek and near Low Pass. The writer staked approximately 130 claims along the trend of this mineralization for a Vancouver company about 1969 but they ran out of funds before accomplishing anything. There is practically no outcrop in the entire area so there is a possibility of a considerable tonnage of ore. Detailed mapping together with soil sampling and followed by the most suitable geophysical methods over a grid could very likely provide some very worthwhile targets for diamond drilling and to confirm obvious drilling targets already in existence.

For further information, a look at some samples, and arrangements for a tour of the property please contact Eric Denny, R.R. #1, Nelson, B.C. 325-4480 or Jack Denny, ph. 352-2378 who each have a 4 wheel drive truck. The fastest way to see it is by helicopter. It is just over 20 miles by air from Nelson. The main dump was a good heliport a few years ago, and one can also land in a logged area 3/4 of a mile to the north.

IVA FERN

TRACED FROM M.R. MAP - 8T 300

SCALE - 1 INCH = 1500 FEET

E. + J. DENNY 

W. JORGENSEN 

E. WEAVER 

NAT. TOP. MAP AREA 82F/7W

