

HEAVY METALS STRIKE

Rich Minerals Discovered Near Golden Heart City

By HOWARD ROCK
Times Editor

It was 64 years ago, July 22, 1902, when Felix Pedro discovered gold near Fairbanks and started a rush that ultimately resulted in millions of dollars of gold mined from the discovery site and the surrounding areas.

On June 22 this year, a month earlier than Pedro's discovery date, another discovery has been revealed to Tundra Times, this time a strike of heavy base metals that may prove to be as valuable and, perhaps more valuable many times over.

Don Rowley, president of the Alaska Arctic Resources, Inc., revealed to the Times this week the discovery he has made. On June 22, he cut open what "appears to be the beginning of a potentially large stockworks structure of base metals that have intruded as a secondary mineral emplacement into existing numerous gold-bearing vein structures."

"The structure now opened has a known strike length between 500 and 1,000 feet long," Rowley said. "The structure varies in width from four to seven feet carrying what might be called a high grade ore value."

"The high grade sections," he continued, "have assayed in excess of 200 ounces of silver per ton plus a lead content as high as 74 per cent. In addition, the vein structure carries varying amounts of molybdenum and gold."

Astonishing Disclosure

Another astonishing disclosure made by Don Rowley was that the property is believed to contain, in addition to the heavy metals of silver-lead ores, a "brecciated" quartz vein, a secondary emplacement of tungsten oxide WO-3 that has assayed as high as 57.80 per cent.

A stream placer, which runs through the holdings for a mile, carries the tungsten concentrate for thousands of feet of its length and assays at 64.48 per cent WO-3.

"The structure just mentioned has not been cut open as we have not had time to get to it as yet," said Rowley in a surprising remark. "However, since the properties we hold involve the entire drainage system of this stream, it can be assumed that with some additional prospecting, there stands a very good chance of this structure being cut open sometime in the near future."

Don Rowley hastened to explain:

"For those who do not understand what a 57.80 WO-3 per cent represents, it must be remembered that some of the best tungsten mines in the world operate on less than one or two per cent of WO-3.

"In dollars and cents, 57.80 per cent represents at present prices a value of \$2,427 per ton on our property."

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GREAT POTENTIAL

In going back to the heavy metals strike, Rowley said that the high grade ore has fingers feeding off from it into adjoining structures which led him and his associates to believe that at depth, the ore-bearing minerals on the surface may have a common source.

"For those who understand, this large diorite intrusion may possibly be the upper limits of a Mesozoic geological age, an age of mineralization," added Rowley.

He said that as good as this may appear and until they have diamond drilled to depth and carry out extensive underground probes and explorations, this cannot be called a mine.

CLOSE TO FAIRBANKS

"It is our understanding, that if our discovery is to be called a mine, it would have to contain many millions of dollars of proven ore reserves," Rowley stated.

"However," he continued, "at this time, it shows greater promise for base metal development in this section of Alaska than anything that has been uncovered during the last 40 or 50 years, especially due to its ideal location—only 30 minutes from downtown Fairbanks by automobile, thus making it only a 30-minute haul by truck to a railroad head where the ore, or concentrates, can be shipped to outside smelting plants at a fairly reasonable price thus enhancing its economic potential."

HOW IT STARTED

Rowley and his associates, over a period of years, have anticipated the potential

high value of the site and have staked out an area over a square mile. The area is now circumvented by adjoining property owners.

One of the property owners to the west is Tury Anderson, a well known Fairbanks resident.

It all began six years ago when Don Rowley had a chance meeting on 2nd Avenue in Fairbanks with Pete Smith, as he is known but whose real name is Gregory Shummeff, an oldtimer who has lived in Alaska 50 years. This also proved to be the beginning of disappointments and frustrations.

"From this chance meeting developed a joint effort to uncover the source of these heavy metals which Pete Smith had first found as pieces in the stream while prospecting for gold," said Rowley.

"And for six years the oldtimer, in winter and summer, and even in 40 below zero temperatures, continued to search for clues by the hand method, which I followed up later using bulldozers and other equipment."

(This week, Pete Smith was seen by this writer down on the creek washing out his gold nuggets. Pete is over 70 years old and came from Russia as a young man.)

Rowley, having been in the mining business 20 years before in western Canada, surmised that the existence of these pieces of ore indicated that there was a potential in the area, an area that was always known as a gold camp, may well contain heavy base metals.

"And thus began six years of frustrations and disappointments while clue after clue was traced across hundreds of acres of wilderness. In this area the bedrock is covered over with 20 feet of over-burden, thus making it very difficult to locate the vein structures which were so well hidden by nature," recalled Rowley.

Oldtimers 50 to 60 years before had also suspected that the base metals existed and had dug hand hole after hand hole over the area searching for definite structures. But they, like Don Rowley and Pete Smith, met with nothing but disappointment and frustration.

As time passed, geo-chemical samplings of the soil for

heavy metals was carried out by the State of Alaska Bureau of Mines and by the U.S. Bureau of Mines in which the latter found indications of the existence of base metals beyond that of just a few pounds of float.

"This also brought more frustrations as the source was not revealed and was only revealed on June 22, we believe, when the present structure was cut open," said Rowley.

STRATEGIC METALS

The worth of the discovery of apparently rich, heavy metals seems to be beyond question, as the United States is known to be experiencing shortages of silver, molybdenum, tungsten and other metals.

Molybdenum is used in making steel and it has been valuable in the space effort.

WASHINGTONITE

Don Rowley was born in Bremerton, Washington where his mother and sister now reside. He came to Alaska in 1941, making his passage in the steerage of the SS Yukon and arriving in Anchorage with \$1.25 to his name.

"I've been looking for change ever since," he said.

Rowley has been making his living working in construction and a great part of his earnings, and those of his associates, have gone into the expense of exploring and digging of the discovery site area.

In closing he said, "This discovery was made less than one mile from the original discovery point of gold in this area by Felix Pedro in 1902. Considering the time period of the two discoveries, it would appear that nature keeps hidden from past generations that which it intends for the use of future generations."

Rowley's mailing address is 100 Noble Street in Fairbanks.

And what is the name of the mine?

"It will be known as the Silversmith Mine after Pete Smith," said Rowley.