BRITISH COLUMBIA

PROSPECTORS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND MINES

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY BRANCH

PROGRAM YEAR:	1994/95
REPORT #:	PAP 94-33
NAME:	DON GIBSON

BRITISH COLUMBIA

MEMPR

PROSPECTORS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

PROSPECTING REPORT

94-95-P98

BRITISH COLUMBIA
PROSPECTORS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
1994 REPORT
AUTHOR : DON GIBSON

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COPY OF : B.C. MEMPR
PHYSICAL WORK ASSESSMENT REPORT
SMI 94-0100675-175

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17-JAN-95
PAGE: 1 OF 1
COPY: 1 OF 2

AUTHORITY: DON GIBSON

P.O. BOX 28
WASAGAMACK, MANITOBA
ROB 1Z0
PHONE: (204)-457-2024

WORK ORDER: 9505-95
*** FINAL REPORT ***

ANALYTICAL LABORATORY REPORT

SAMPLE TYPE: CONCENTRATE

SAMPLE NUMBER	Au g/t	Ag g/t	Pt g/t
KNELSON CONC.	244	118	1.445
SLUICE CONC.	2.52	18.6	0.077

SIGNED: _____
Richard Magner,
LABORATORY Technologist

TOP PICTURE

Muck has been removed and the initial boulders drilled and broken up.

BOTTOM PICTURE

Construction of frame to prevent sides from eroding into the hole.

LUMBER SUPPLY

TOP PICTURE

Old grizzly and sluice.

BOTTOM PICTURE

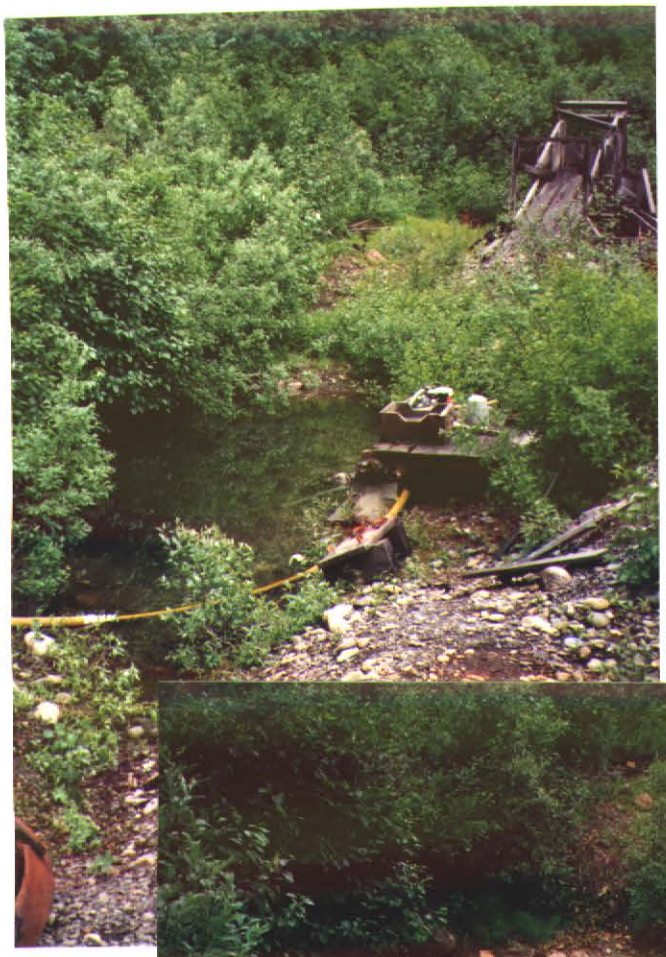
Cutting new lumber with an Alaska Saw Mill.

TOP PICTURE

Full dump box.

BOTTOM PICTURE

Sluicing underway.



TOP PICTURE

The pit at the beginning of the summer.

MIDDLE & BOTTOM PICTURE

Example's of the high water problem.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

MEMPR

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LOCATION

PLACER CLAIM	Antipas # 1	Tenure # 310464
MINING DIVISION	Skeena	
NTS MAP	104B / 9W	
LATITUDE	56 degrees	30 minutes
LONGITUDE	130 degrees	21 minutes
CLAIM OWNER'S	Claude Kilbury (50%), Pioneer Home, 141 Bryant St., Ketchican, Alaska, U.S.A. 99901 FMC# 114053 Tel (907) 225-4603	Don Gibson (50%), PO Box 28, Wasagamack, Manitoba. ROB 1ZO FMC # 109536 Tel. (204) 457-2024 Camp Tel. "Gibson Camp" Channel VL 8
OPERATOR	Don Gibson	
DATE SUBMITTED	September 5, 1994	

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INTRODUCTION

LOCATION

PHYSIOGRAPHIC AREA Boundary Ranges

ACCESS

65 kilometers to the Northwest from Stewart, by helicopter.

HISTORY

This area has been prospected for placer gold since the late 1800's. However, since its discovery there has only been three periods of recorded activity. The Department of Mines of B.C. 1950 Bulletin #28 states two of these periods and their placer gold production. It was also intermittently worked between 1972 and 1988. During these years an elderly Alaskan gentleman has been working on the bench placer area, and on a pit at the mouth of Mitchell Creek Canyon. Mr. Kilbury did not reach bedrock in the pit due to two extremely high water flooding disasters at the canyon mouth. During 1986, '87, '88, and '89, I made trips into the Mitchell Cr. camp to prospect, stake claims, and maintain the camp. In 1990 I received a prospecting grant from the province of B.C., MEMPR, and was able to spend about two months at Mitchell Cr. prospecting for placer gold. Subsequent trips into Mitchell Cr. were made in 1991 and 1992 and at that time further placer exploration, claim staking, and camp maintenance was carried out.

ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT

The total recorded gold production in the past is 255 ounces. However, economically, this area in the past and present is very expensive to work due to the remote locality, coarse gravels, and high water conditions.

The economic outlook has improved for this area over the past few years with the road's construction into the Eskay Creek mine. The accessibility will be better and the cost of transportation into the site will be less expensive. Northern Mountain Helicopters has a Hughes 500 based at the mine. I estimate .4 of an hour to make a round trip into the camp instead of 1 hour from Stewart. Also, the trip from Eskay Creek

INTRODUCTION

can be made in bad weather in the same amount of time as there is direct access down the Unuk River and then up Sulphurets Creek to the camp.

NEW WORK

New work performed this year included excavation of the partially dug pit at the mouth of Mitchell Creek Canyon. A layer of overburden with the coarsest gravel's has been removed to a depth of approximately 2 meters in this partially dug pit. This layer had produced a minimal amount of placer gold in the past according to Mr. Kilbury, (previous prospector). In this pit there was an excessive amount of black organic muck that had to be removed initially before the gravels could be excavated. With this done, work began widening, lengthening, and deepening the hole at the bottom of the pit. As the excavation progressed there were 3 of layers of sediment observed. Work was stopped due to a ventilation problem and I was unable to excavate, or drill and sound the depth to bedrock.

The sluicable gravels were moved by bucket and wheelbarrow to a dump box and contained there until sluiced. (There was so much pyrite in the gravel that the dump box sparkled in the sunlight.) There was a bulk gravel sample of approximately 3.6 cubic meters tested.

The sluice was 3 meters long and 18 cm wide and had to be modified radically due to the theft of a water pump from the camp. Sluicing was slow and difficult as I only had the one pump with an output of 400 liters per minute. Gravels were prescreened with a 1.25 cm grating. It was definitely not the optimal setup but I feel the results attained with it are reasonably accurate.

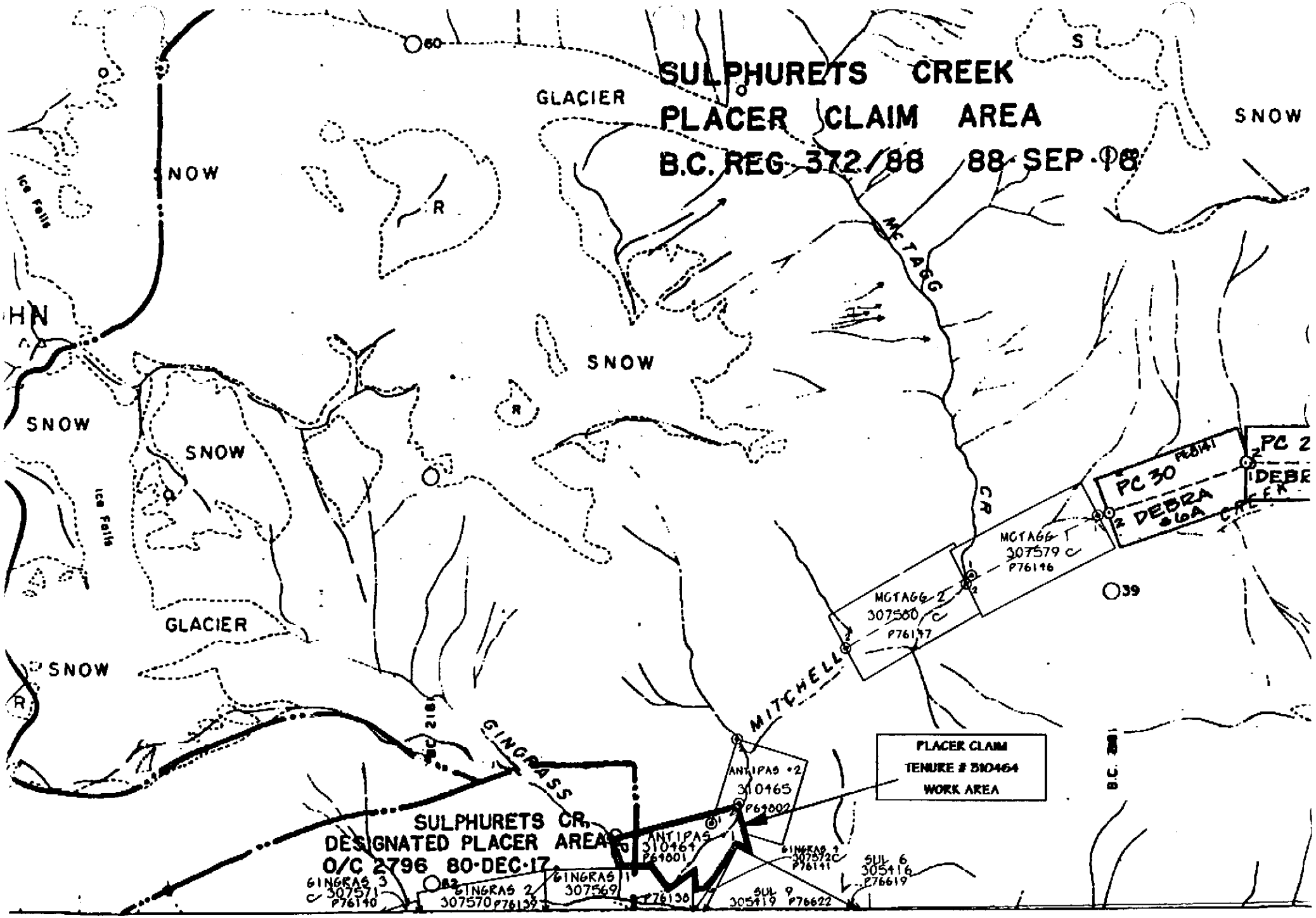
Other related work this year included brushing out the trail to the pit and the working area which had become thickly overgrown in the past few years. The approach to the helicopter landing area was also cleared out as one pilot pointed out that the brush had grown enough to cause concern. This task was made difficult and dangerous as my small chainsaw has also been stolen from the camp with the water pump. I had to use the saw that is part of the Alaskan Mill with a 30 inch bar. Camp maintenance was

INTRODUCTION

minimal this year as the cabin has suffered very little damage in the past two winters. Firewood and water are both easily accessible at this site. Wildlife posed minimal problems this year with only one bear in camp which was easily scared off.

Reclamation work performed this year included the removal of an empty 45 gal. fuel drum, 6 auto batteries(12V), and approximately 200kgs. of garbage to the dump in Stewart.

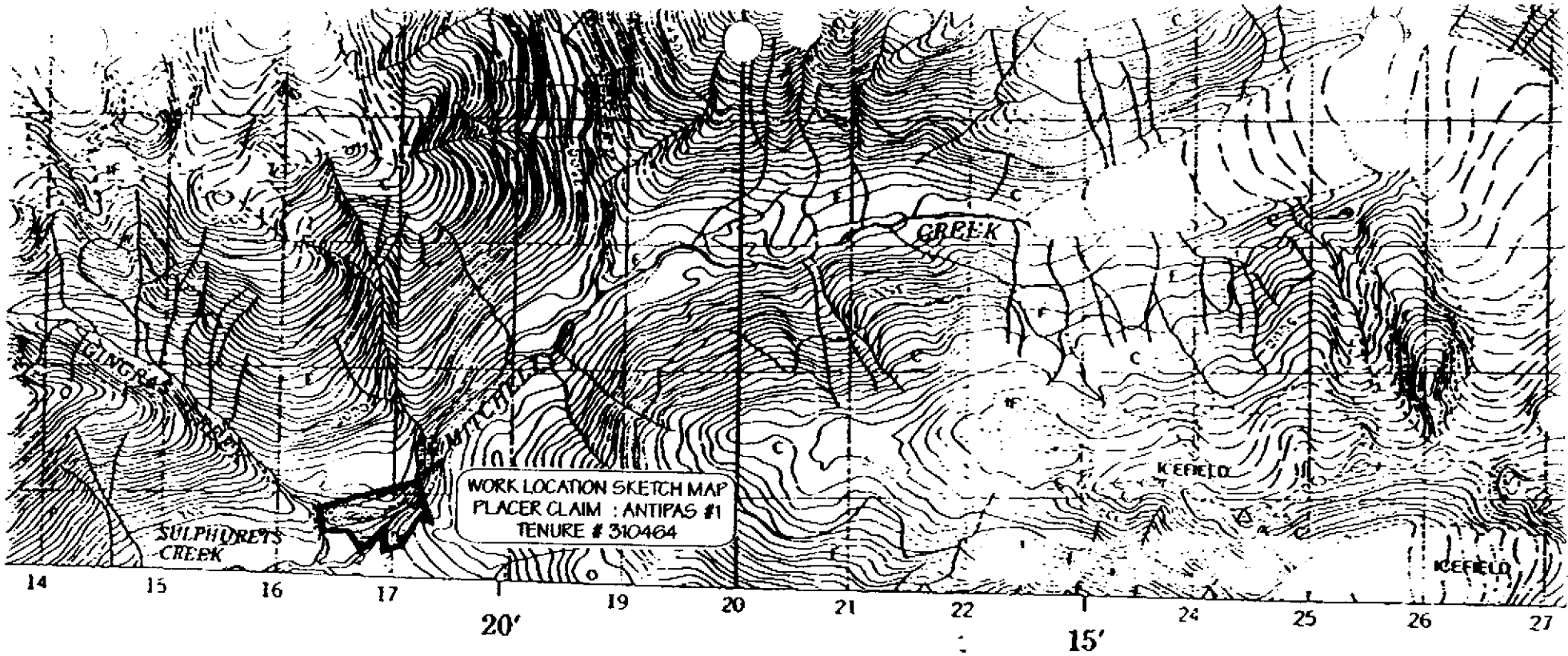
A report has been filed with the RCMP in Stewart regarding the thefts of the water pump and chainsaw.(file #94-0249). Hopefully there will be no further equipment thefts as it causes delays, increased work load, and a financial burden.



PLACER TITLES
REFERENCE MAP

P 104B09W

SCALE 1: 31,680



CONTOUR INTERVAL ..... 100 FEET

ELEVATIONS IN FEET ABOVE MEAN SEA LEVEL

NORTH AMERICAN DATUM 1927

TRANSVERSE MERCATOR PROJECTION

INFORMATION CONCERNING LOCATION AND PRECISE ELEVATION OF BENCH MARKS CAN BE OBTAINED BY WRITING TO THE GEODETIC SURVEY SURVEYS AND MAPPING BRANCH OTTAWA

JOHN PEAKS

CASSIAR LAND DISTRICT

BRITISH COLUMBIA

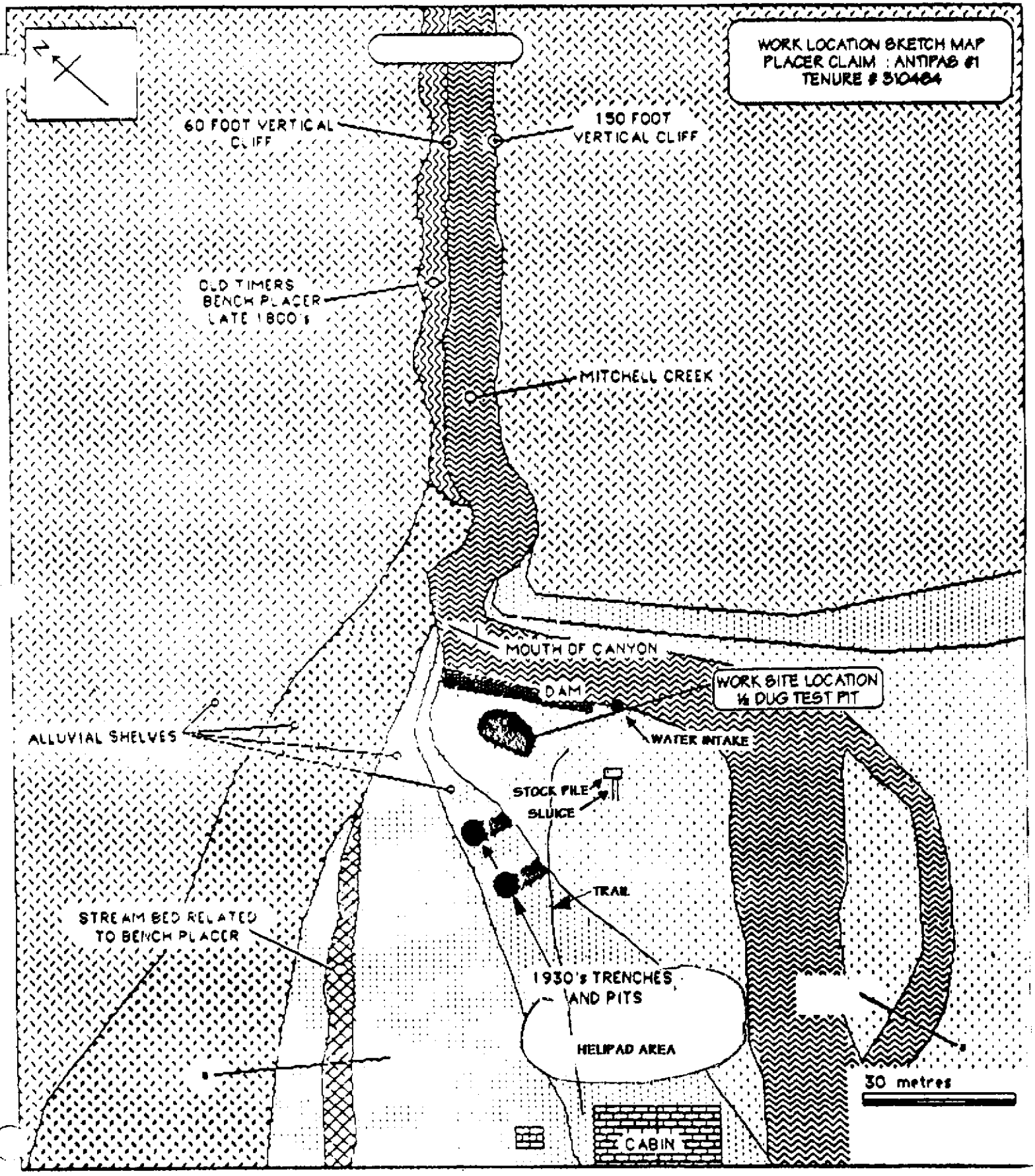
Scale 1:50,000 Échelle

Miles 0 1 2 3 Miles

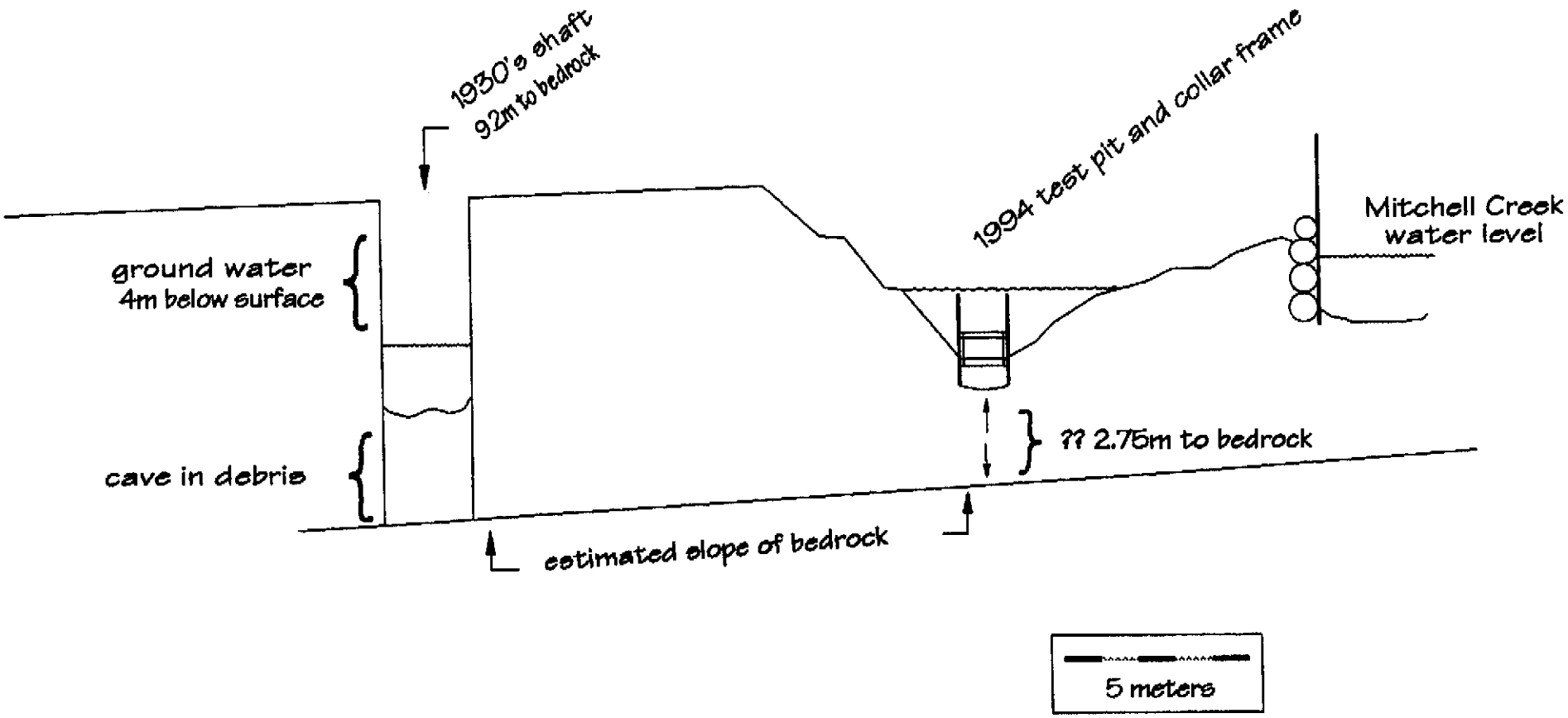
Metres 1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 Mètres

Yards 1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 Yards

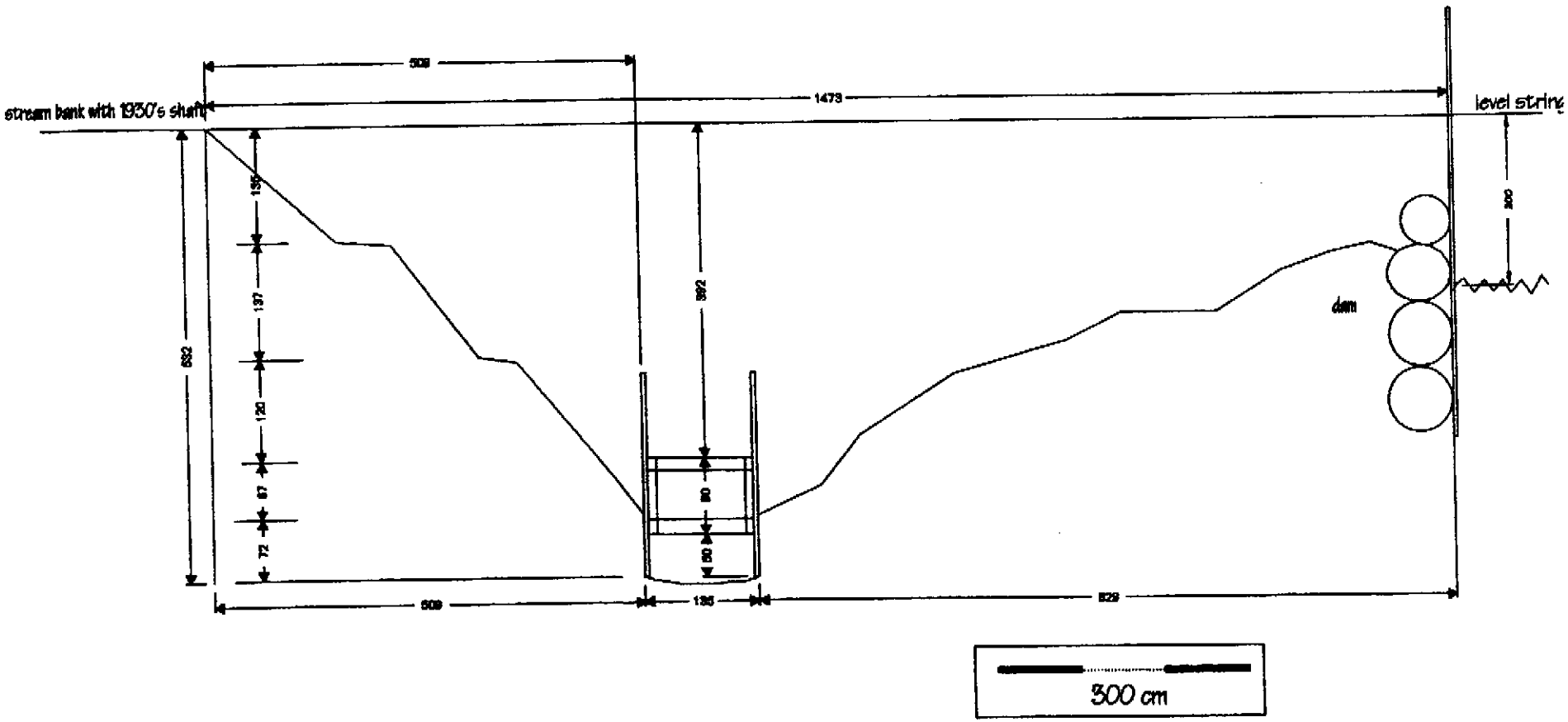
NTS
104 / B6W


WORK LOCATION SKETCH MAP
PLACER CLAIM : ANTIPAS #1
TENURE # 510464
60 FOOT VERTICAL CLIFF
150 FOOT VERTICAL CLIFF
OLD TIMERS BENCH PLACER LATE 1800's
MITCHELL CREEK
MOUTH OF CANYON
DAM
WORK SITE LOCATION
½ DUG TEST PIT
WATER INTAKE
ALLUVIAL SHELVES
STOCK PILE
SLUICE
TRAIL
STREAM BED RELATED TO BENCH PLACER
1930's TRENCHES AND PITS
HELIPAD AREA
CABIN
30 metres

WORK AREA CROSS SECTION SKETCH #1



WORK AREA CROSS SECTION SKETCH #2



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TECHNICAL REPORT

PROSPECTING TARGET

COMMODITY, MINERAL	Gold
DEPOSIT TYPE	Placer
GEOLOGY	Mitchell Creek, and its tributaries, drains an area underlain by Lower Jurassic Unuk River Formation rock, Hazelton Group. Gold coloure, flakes and nuggets have been found in the gravels and alluvium along the lower reaches of the creek on the terraces in the canyon near Gingras Creek, downstream to the confluence with Sulphurete Creek, and on further to the Unuk River. Placer gold production from 1876 to 1880 was reported at 229 ounces, and from 1936 to 1940 was reported at 26 ounces (Bulletin 28). A Sauerman dragline with a 1/4 yard bucket was utilized in the sluicing of about 274 meters of gravel near the mouth of Mitchell Creek. Gold recovery was not reported (Geology, Exploration, and Mining, 1974 - 361).

PURPOSE

This prospecting program was to accomplish the reassessment of a previously known placer gold deposit by sampling bedrock gravel's at the mouth of Mitchell Creek Canyon in the Sulphurete Designated Placer Area, Northwestern B.C.. The work was mainly excavation and bulk sampling of placer gravel's in order to evaluate placer gold content. The testing program utilized a Plonjar 120 gasoline powered drill / breaker to assist the hand excavation.

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TECHNICAL REPORT

RESULTS

The initial layer was the hard packed clay the impeded my work in 1990. This layer was between 7.5 to 15 cm thick and composed of clay, fine gravels, and rocks ranging from the size of your fist to the size of your head. Pyrite was very predominant and moderate amounts of garnet and magnetite were present. The only course gold found in this pit is to be located between this layer and the one above it.

The second layer was made up of an assortment of gravel/boulders sizes and was approximately 90 cm thick. It is very easily eroded and easy to excavate. This caused difficulties as the sides of the pit started to wash in with the ground water and undercut some boulders in the pit sides. A wooden frame was constructed to collar the pit bottom and worked very well once in place. This layer of gray, soft, crumbly gravels contained large quantities of course pyrite, ? galena, and smaller amounts of quartz, garnet, and magnetite. There was no course gold in this layer, however there was a small amount of flour gold sluiced.

The third layer uncovered is another layer of very hard packed clay which is almost entirely made up of fine pyrite and small amounts of magnetite. Gold was not found in this layer so far. This layer was 12 to 24 cm thick and work was halted before it could be completely removed. Poor ventilation in the hole forced work to cease as the Plonjar's exhaust became overpowering.

There were three sluice setups with the sluice being cleaned up after each one.

Gravels sluiced:	Approx. vol.
1). The gravels of the first hard pack layer and those above it.	.9 m^3
2). The gravels of the gray, soft, crumbly layer.	2.3 m^3
3). The gravels of the second hard packed clay layer.	.4 m^3

TECHNICAL REPORT

Sluice concentrates:

1). The first sluice produced a few gold flakes the largest measuring 8mm x 4mm x 2 mm and no detectable flour gold.
2). The second sluice produced a small amount of flour gold and no coarse gold.
3). The third sluice produced no detectable gold.

All of the sluice concentrates were then combined and take to Knelson Gold Concentrators Inc. in Langley, B.C.. This was done for two reasons, to double check my results, and to see how the concentrator worked, (i.e., would it be worth while getting one to assure accurate results and speed up the prospecting).

INTERPRETATION

In the 3.6 cubic meters of alluvial gravels sampled, plus the other 2.5 cubic meters of rock and muck excavated, the amount of gold recovered was insignificant, other than the fact that there is placer gold present.

CONCLUSION

To this point in time this area is uneconomical and further sampling is required. Bedrock was not reached this year, and the results of this years sluicing are discouraging. Bedrock must be reached for a better assessment of the area's prospects. The work competed this year will make next year's work directly focused on reaching bed rock. The hole in the pit is collared and covered to prevent the sides from eroding and the organic muck from building up. Also, with a few modifications to the Pionjar's exhaust it will be the perfect tool for excavating the gravel at the bottom of the pit. The sluice set up will have to be redesigned in the future and a larger pump will be needed. Also, the cabin should also be in good shape next year provided there is not an exceptionally heavy snowfall to collapse or damage the roof.

As discussed earlier the cost of transportation into this site is becoming more reasonable and a similar program is being planned for 1995.

TECHNICAL REPORT

The Knelson Gold Concentrator would be a benefit to the prospecting but it is very expensive and until there is a proven deposit a good sluice will be sufficient to concentrate the alluvial gravels.

PROSPECTING EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING

I initially started placer prospecting in 1980 when I met an old time prospector, Mr. Claude Kilbury from Ketchikan, Alaska. He was working his placer lease at the mouth of Mitchell Creek canyon. During that summer of 1980, and the following one also, I was working as a helicopter mechanic in a geology camp run by ESSO Minerals on Mitchell Cr.. All my spare time was spent prospecting for placer down the Sulphurettes Valley and along the east side of Mitchell Cr. As much time as possible was spent with Mr. Kilbury in those two summers learning about placer gold exploration from his 20+ years of prospecting experience.

During 1986, '87, '88, and '89, I made trips into the Mitchell Cr. camp to prospect, stake claims, and maintain the camp.

In 1990 I received a prospecting grant from the province of B.C., MEMPR, and was able to spend about two months at Mitchell Cr. prospecting for placer gold. Subsequent trips into Mitchell Cr. were made in 1991 and 1992 and at that time further placer exploration and camp maintenance was carried out.

My past actual mining experience includes nine months, in 1977-78, when I was employed with Noranda Mining Co., Geco Div., in Manitouwadge, Ontario. During that period I worked underground mucking, tramming, long-hole loading, blasting, and scam work. I was able to successfully complete a Basic Underground Mining Skills Course during that time which included a blasting course.

To further enhance the physical and working knowledge of placer prospecting I did some fairly extensive research into the Mitchell Cr. area in regards to past placer prospecting and production. The research was done at the B.C. Provincial Archives and the MEMPR Library, both in Victoria, during the winters in 1980 and 1981. (Please refer also to an attached list of books, papers, and articles that I have read in relation to placer prospecting and production.)

PLACER PROSPECTING AND PRODUCTION
BOOKS, PAPERS AND ARTICLES

A STUDY OF THE FINE GOLD RECOVERY OF SELECTED SLUICE BOX CONFIGURATIONS. 1988, by James Hamilton, UBC.

AN ANALYSIS OF SLUICE BOX RIFFLE PERFORMANCE. 1990, by Randy Clarkson P. Eng. and Owen Peer

B.C. MEMPR. ALL BULLETINS with any reference to the Unuk River

B.C. MEMPR. GEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK. 1988, Paper 1989-1 pg. 223-248

B.C. MEMPR. GEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK. 1989, Paper 1990-1 pg. 519-528

B.C. MEMPR. GEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK. 1990, Paper 1991-1 pg. 331-344

B.C. MEMPR. GEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK. 1992, Paper 1993-1 pg. 463-473

B.C. MEMPR. GUIDE TO LEGISLATION AND APPROVALS IN PLACER MINING. 1986

B.C. MEMPR. GUIDELINES FOR MINERAL EXPLORATION: ENVIRONMENTAL, RECLAMATION AND APPROVAL REQUIREMENTS. Jan. 1992

B.C. MEMPR. INTRODUCTION TO PROSPECTING. 1986, by E.L. Faulkener

B.C. MEMPR. MINERAL TENURE ACT AND REGULATIONS

B.C. MEMPR. NOTES ON PLACER MINING IN B.C., Bulletin 21, 1946

B.C. MEMPR. WELCOME TO GEORGE'S GUIDE TO CLAIM STAKING IN B.C.

B.C. REGIONAL GEOCHEMICAL SURVEY #18, 1987, by GSC, open file #16545. (site specific, #871412, 871422, 871423, 871424, 871438)

DISPERSION AND BEHAVIOR OF GOLD IN STREAM SEDIMENTS, 1990, by W.K. Fletcher (open file 1990-28)

GOLD PANNERS MANUAL, 1978, by. Garnet Basque

PLACER PROSPECTING AND PRODUCTION
BOOKS, PAPERS AND ARTICLES

METHODS OF PLACER MINING, 1978, by Garnet Basque

PLACER GOLD MINING IN NORTHERN B.C., 1935, by Allen Trueman, UBC.

PLACER GOLD RECOVERY RESEARCH FINAL SUMMARY, 1990, by Randy Clarkson P. Eng.

REPORTS OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES, 1874-1982 inclusive, where there was any mention of the Unuk River or its tributaries

SHALLOW REFRACTION SEISMIC EXPLORATION, 1977, by H. Myers P. Eng., P. Geol.

SUMMARY REPORT ON PLACER RESEARCH PROJECTS, 1990, by C.H. Macdonald P. Eng.

YUKON PLACER MINING INDUSTRY, 1978-1982, by R.L. Deblckl