

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Winter & Pond Company, Photographers

Winter and Pond Mining Property Photographs, ca. 1897-1939
Echo Cove, Berners Bay

PCA 316

1 album
1.0 inches

Processed by: India Spartz and
Mary Anne Slemmons
1990, April 2002

ACQUISITION: The collection was purchased from Remington Lowe, formerly of B.M. Behrends Bank in November 1989. Winter and Pond owned a Juneau photography studio between 1893-1943. According to this album, they also owned and operated mining claims in the Juneau Gold Belt area. (Acc. # 1989-052.)

ACCESS: The collection is available for viewing, however, due to its fragile condition, the photographs may not be photocopied. Gloves must be worn when viewing this collection.

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PROCESSING: The photographs are numbered in an album. Tissue paper has been interleaved with the pages.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS

Lloyd Winter and Percy Pond acquired a lode claim, the California Prospect, at Echo Cove in Berners Bay, north of Juneau in 1897. This photograph album, which was "prepared for, and loaned to, TERRITORIAL DEPARTMENT OF MINES, Juneau, Alaska, March 30, 1939," [note from Pond on inside back cover] documents their work on the claim.

Text describing the contents of the photographs has been transcribed in this inventory. Omitted are explanations of economics, conditions, and the workings of the mining operations that are found in the album labels.

INVENTORY

- 1 Map of the northern portion of the Juneau Gold Belt, Alaska. [Circled in red is] Winter & Pond Mining Property, Echo Cove.
- 2 Showing location of Winter & Pond mining property (California-Gold Standard Group), embracing five complete lode claims, tunnel site and five 5-acre mill sites, at Echo Cove. The placer claim, of secondary importance, is not shown here. [Red-inked designation on photo of black-and-white topographical map]
- 3 Airplane view of sheltered Echo Cove looking south toward Juneau showing location of Winter & Pond mineral claims
- 4 Top photo portrays Echo Cove at low tide, entrance to the cove and the relative positions of the Kensington, Comet and Jualin mines. . . .
- 5 Lower photo looking North across Yankee basin vividly portraying the North-south strike of the ore zone in the Berners bay region of the Juneau gold belt which extends a short distance beyond the Kensington, Comet and Jualin mines depicted in the distance. Note, contrary to its appearance in top photo, the mountain on which the Winter & Pond claims are located is not a "knob" hill. . . .
- 6 (A) Winter and Pond mining camp located at tidewater on mill sites below the main workings at the Southeast end of sheltered Echo Cove. . . .
- 7 (B) Alternative view of Winter & Pond mining camp showing a portion of Echo Cove with Berners bay situated beyond the forested points which form the entrance to the Cove.

- 8 (C) Showing a portion of the new trail from Winter & Pond tidewater camp to the main workings located 1 1/4 miles from the beach.

The quartz outcrops portrayed in the following photographs, Number 1 to 11 inclusive, constitute the apex of the Winter & Pond lode at Echo Cove. These important showings are situated at various intervals along the center line of the claims, from the lower level near Davies creek to nearly the summit of the mountain. . . .

- 9 (1) On claim Number 1, quartz body exposed several hundred feet above Davies creek, (see photo D), on the south side of "the knob" a few hundred feet below the main workings on the Winter & Pond property. . . .
- 10 (2) Alternative view of quartz exposure shown in photograph Number 1.
- 11 (3) Wide angle, distant view, of the North side of "the knob" looking south in the direction of quartz exposure portrayed in photographs Number 1 and 2. This picture shows the relative positions of veins Number 1, 2, and 3, (recent discoveries) enclosed in greenstone. Dotted lines indicate position of the veins and their dip.
- 12 (4) Close up view of vein Number 1 on the North side of "the knob". . . .
- 13 (5) Wide angle, distant view of quartz veins Number 2 and 3 exposed on the North side of "the knob". . . Both veins, including the wall rock, are well mineralized.
- 14 (6) Close-up view of vein Number 3 on the North side of "the knob". . . .
- 15 (7) Open cut on the apex of the lode several hundred feet above the old main tunnel and about a claim length above "the knob". . . From the grass roots down, the vein shows remarkable values in free gold. Red oxidized portions of the ore pans gold.
- 16 (8) Open cut on the apex of the vein system 84 feet higher on the slope above the quartz exposure shown in photograph Number 7. . . .
- 17 (9) Open cut on the apex of the lode several hundred feet higher on the slope above the quartz body shown in photograph Number 8. . . .
- 18 (10) Wide-angle view of the splendid Gold Standard showing exposed on claim Number 4 of the Winter & Pond group. This big quartz lens is situated several hundred feet higher on the slope above the ore body shown in photograph 9. . .

This showing alone represents considerable tonnage and assays anywhere from several hundred dollars to \$50.00 gold per ton at \$20.00 per troy ounce.

- 19 (11) This big quartz lens exposed on the surface of claim Number 5, about 2,500 feet above sea level shows the Winter & Pond lode to be regular and persistent in strike and depth. . . .
- 20 (D) Davies creek flowing seaward at right angle to claim Number 1 through a high, narrow gorge which forms an excellent site for a water reservoir for generating hydro-electric power, for mining, milling and other purposes. . . . Photographed in August during the warm, dry period of the year.
- 21 . . . portal of the old main tunnel driven on the West vein of the lower California unit described in paragraphs 8 and 9, page 3, of the summary.

The black dotted lines show the direction of the tunnel and the turn, or deflection, from the course of the high-grade vein outcropping higher on the slope the location of which is represented by the white dotted rectangle in the picture. . . .

The following illustrations constitute a succinct photographic record of the beginning of mining operations at the Winter & Pond property at Echo Cove. . .

In the autumn of 1896, fine placer-gold, and gold-bearing float, found by E. P. Pond and J. G. Davies prospecting a minor tributary of Davies creek, cascading from the mountain that flanks the parent stream on the North, led to the discovery of several highly mineralized quartz veins, the source of the gold, outcropping in the upper drainage area of the small affluent [sic].

Prospecting was resumed the following spring with encouraging results and claims Number 1, 2, and 3, (the lower California unit), were located by the pioneer discoverers who thereupon initiated a systematic program of development work.

Later discoveries of rich ore on the property resulted in a small stampede into the area and the location, in 1897, of claims Number 4 and 5, (the upper Gold Standard unit), on a mineralized quartz fissure vein exposed on the extension of the lode. These claims were subsequently purchased by Messrs. Pond and Davies from the original locators.

The difficulties of opening a mine in a practically unsettled country are many. In the absence of transportation facilities, the partners had to purchase a small vessel at an exorbitant price. Trails had to be built; timber, windfalls, and underbrush had to be cleared away and log cabins constructed. At the beginning, considerable money was

spend on the undertaking. High wages, high cost of supplies and equipment did much to retard mining activity and often led to serious discouragements.

- 22 Left picture: photographed by Mr. Pond showing his mining associate, J. G. Davies and son, and surface test pits cut on the veining system at intervals along the apex of the lode to determine the extent and permanency of the new discovery preparatory to tunneling operations.
- 23 Right picture: portraying the original discovery, a high-grade fissure quartz vein of banded structure, about 2 feet wide on the surface, carrying considerable sulphides and free-gold, dipping at an angle of about 60 degrees to the Northeast, into the mountain. This photo shows the vein "faced up" ready for starting the main tunnel describe in last paragraph, page 3, of the summer report.
- 24 . . . J. G. Davies, E. P. Pond and the latter's brother

The property was originally opened by five exploratory tunnels of various lengths, mostly driven in on the veins from the outcrops, although several are primarily crosscuts to the veins.

On the lower California unit, three are known as the West and East tunnels driven in on the West and East lodes described on page 3 in the summary.

- 25 One of these drifts, identified as the "waterfall tunnel", is shown at the right in a distant and close-up view. The slate hanging wall is plainly visible in both pictures. This tunnel is quite fully describe in the first paragraph, page 4, of the summary report.

Forty feet in on the quartz body depicted in the immediate foreground of the photo on the extreme right, pockets of golden quartz worth \$10.00 per pound were discovered during early exploratory operations on the ore.

- 26 Not specifically mentioned heretofore is the slate-greenstone contact tunnel situated below the "waterfall" drift on the East lode of the lower California unit. This tunnel, portrayed in a distant and close view at the right, was drive to undercut the downward extension of the vein in the "waterfall" tunnel the location of which is indicated on the print.

The high cost of mining in the early days here, and other causes beyond the control of the owners, necessarily limited development work to small scale operations. Mining was done without power - by hand-drilling - and consequently progressed very slowly and laboriously. As no great depth was attained on the lode, the ore bodies are wholly virgin and unprospected.

27 The persons in the close-up picture, left to right, are: E.P. Pond, J. G. Davies, Joe Pond and Al Doring.

28 Portraying the main works at the upper Gold Standard unit of the Winter & Pond property.

The tunnel shown directly beneath the hemlock tree, at the left of the small waterfall, was run in by the original locators to get below the big quartz lens well exposed higher on the left slope of the gulch. . . The small log structure at the left is the powder house. Mr. Davies and son are standing at the portal of the new tunnel.

29 Early camp quarters located high on the slope near the Gold Standard working portrayed in the preceding photograph. J. G. Davies (standing) and son. . . the third cabin, shown here, was located about a claim length below the fourth building situated on a timbered ridge well over 2,000 feet above sea-level near the exposed ore body depicted in photo Number 11. . . .

30 Early picture of tidewater camp at Echo Cove in winter, Mr. and Mrs. Pond in the foreground. . . The sacked high-grade ore, stored under the "overhang" pending shipment to Juneau, came from the lower tunnels on the East and West lodes

31 Another early view of tidewater camp at Echo Cove in winter, Mr. and Mrs. Pond in the foreground. Note, sacked high-grade ore in front of the cabin awaiting shipment to Juneau. . . .

32 Portraying winter operations at the main tunnel on the West lode of the lower California unit . . . The partners, left to right, Messrs. Pond and Davies, examining selected quartz ore preparatory to sacking for shipment to Juneau.

33 . . . Winter scene at portal of main tunnel photographed during early mining operations described on preceding page. Left to right: Edwin Young and Mike Dunn, employees, and J. G. Davies.

34 . . . Left to right: J. G. Davies and employees, Ed. Young and Mike Dunn, at the old cabin quarters near the main drift on the lower California unit of the Winter & Pond property.

35 . . . Early view of mining activities on the Winter & Pond property showing the waste dump and cabin quarters near the tunnel on the West lode of the lower

California unit. Left to right: Mike Dunn, Ed Young, employees, and Mr. Davies.

36 . . . Sledding supplies, during the early days, from tidewater camp to the snow-covered cabin quarters situated near the tunnel works on the West lode of the lower California unit of the Winter 7 Pond property.

37 . . . This is one of the first photo pictures ever taken in Alaska. It shows camp quarters, just after completion, on the lower California unit near the tunnel site on the West lode.

Left to right: E.P. Pond, Mrs. Pond, and J. G. Davies.

38 Before the days of motor power: Mr. and Mrs. Pond homeward bound from the mine, in their 16-foot open combination sail and row boat, after the winter breakup. . . .