STATE DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES
Head Office: 1069 State Office Building, Portland 1, Oregon

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WILLISTON TALKS TO WESTERN STATES COUNCIL

It may seem profitless to emphasize past mistakes in our Government mineral policies but it is the part of wisdom to remember historical facts in order to understand the reason for some of the present metal shortages. Also these facts should point the way in our striving to regain a measure of self sufficiency in metals. This thought is prompted by a news item in the American Mining Congress Bulletin Service of November 26, 1951, as follows:

> On November 12, the Western States Council, composed of Chamber of Commerce executives from the 11 Western States, met at San Francisco to discuss regional problems ranging from atomic production through mining, farming, water, power, and tourist trade.
>
> Sam Williston, vice president, Cordero Mining Company, condemned "bureaucratic action" by the Federal Government in leading the nation to its present "have not" position with respect to strategic metals.
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> He told the Council, "In 1937, with the Reciprocal Trade Act, we began to lose the position we had (of self-sufficiency in the basic nonferrous metals, copper, lead, and zinc). Our Government, in an effort to help foreign developments, started to sacrifice part of our domestic market to foreign producers.
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> "This encouragement to foreign producers, by the lowering of tariffs, required less of the domestic producers and consequently, less exploration and less development was carried on.
>
> "World War II," he said, "cut deeply into our stockpile of strategic metals and at the war's end, instead of replacing and enlarging reserves consumed, our Government planners in Washington threw almost every possible roadblock into the path of the mining industry.
>
> "High tax rates of the war years were maintained and made more onerous. The end effect was to tell the prospector and the small company to proceed at their own risk in the search for new mineral deposits.
>
> "Another failure of the Federal Government," he said, "was in its strategic metal stockpiling program, whose administrators showed complete lack of understanding of basic features."
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> Williston said, "These ills may yet be corrected through the new Defense Materials Procurement Agency which needs all our prayers and all our hopes, best wishes, and best efforts."

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MERCURY IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1951

(From U.S. Bureau of Mines Mercury Report No. 100)

Mercury consumption in the third quarter of 1951 fell 37 percent below the April-June quarter and to less than half of the all-time peak established in the first quarter of the year, according to the Bureau of Mines, Department of the Interior. Meanwhile, production continued to rise slowly, and there were indications that further gains were in prospect for the fourth quarter. Imports were 47 percent higher than in the second quarter and only 7 percent less than in January-March, continuing at a relatively high rate in relation to most earlier periods. A large quantity of mercury received during the quarter and on hand September 30, was for a new chlorine installation at McIntosh, Alabama. Inventories at the end of September already were above normal because of the accumulation of metal for the new large chlorine plant at Saltville, Virginia, expected to open soon.

Salient statistics of mercury in January-September 1951, by quarters, in flasks of 76 pounds

Period	Production[1/]	General imports	Exports	Consumption	Stocks at end of period: Consumers & dealers	Stocks at end of period: Producers	Price per flask at New York (average)
1951:							
January-March . .	880	12,805	38	17,700	27,300	2,181	$209.20
April-June . . .	1,400	8,065	75	13,300	25,400	2,288	212.84
July-September .	1,600	11,867	53	8,400	32,300	1,582	202.97

[1/] In addition at least 500 flasks were produced from the treatment of scrap such as old batteries in the first quarter of 1951, 400 in the second, and 600 in the third.

The average quoted price for mercury at New York declined from a range of $210 to $213 a flask in early July to $195 to $200 in late August and early September, but recovered to $215 to $220 by the end of September.

Domestic production: Three large mines were productive in the third quarter. In addition to the Mount Jackson (Sonoma County, California), leading producer in the United States in every quarter since 1949, the Bonanza (Douglas County, Oregon) continued to produce, and the Cordero (Humboldt County, Nevada) reopened on a large scale, after having been closed since February 15, 1950. Producers ranking next in size, all in California, were the Archer (Fresno County), and the Juniper and North Star (San Benito County), and Culver-Baer (Sonoma County). The foregoing properties accounted for 97 percent of production in July-September 1951. The Hermes mine, Valley County, Idaho, reopened before the end of the quarter and produced some metal; increased production in the final quarter of the year was assured.

Mercury imported into the United States in the first three quarters of 1951, by countries, in flasks (general imports)

(From records of the U.S. Department of Commerce)

	1951		
	January-March	April-June	July-September
Bolivia	19	--	--
Canada and Newfoundland . . .	13	(2)	140
Germany	--	--	150
Honduras	--	--	10
Italy	1,462	3,903	8,907
Japan	250	--	--
Mexico	1,237	987	1,137
Spain	7,199	1,141	159
Sweden	155	525	--
Switzerland	--	104	--
Yugoslavia	2,470	1,405	1,364
	12,805	8,065	11,867

Foreign trade: Imports of mercury rose 47 percent in the third quarter of 1951 but were 22 and 51 percent, respectively, below quarterly averages for 1950 and 1949. Receipts of metal in July-September, 1951, however, were not small in relation to most earlier periods other than World War II years. Receipts from Italy (8,907 flasks) dominated foreign trade movements in the third quarter of 1951.

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BONANZA MINE STEADY PRODUCER

The Bonanza quicksilver mine, Douglas County, Oregon, has been operating steadily since it resumed work last March. Present production from its Gould furnace is approximately 6 flasks a day. It is reported that exploration in new ground south from old workings has developed new ore bodies on the 500 and 600 levels. A new block of ore has been developed from the 500 up to the 300. The drift on the 600 was barren but a raise ran into an ore shoot above this level.

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MINING ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT REPORTS ON CONFERENCES WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

According to the Grants Pass Daily Courier of December 11, Mr. F. I. Bristol, President of the Oregon Mining Association, has returned from Washington, D.C., where he has been conferring with government officials since November 25. Mr. Bristol presented statements from a large number of chrome operators in southern Oregon and northern California to the Defense Minerals Production Administration, the Defense Minerals Administration, the National Security Resources Board, and members of the Linden V. Johnson Senate Committee on Preparedness. He had conferences with Howard Young, Deputy Administrator of DMPA; James Douglas of DMPA; Tom Lyons, Head of DMA; W.M.B. Freeman, Special Assistant to the Administrator of the Emergency Procurement Administration; J. K. Remsen, Director of Materials for the National Security Resources Board; and several members of Congress. Congressman Claire Engle of California promised to assist in the development of a workable chrome program. All of the officials promised that they would give earnest assistance in writing specifications so that present maximum tonnage restrictions would be lifted or at least liberalized. Mr. Bristol stated that he was assured that the government wants all the chrome it can get and that producers should band together in petitioning for access roads to chrome areas.

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MANGANESE PURCHASING DEPOT REQUESTED

The Baker Record Courier reports that the Eastern Oregon Mining and Mineral Association, through its President, Miss Nadine Strayer, has presented documentary evidence to the Defense Minerals Administration office in Spokane to support the Association's petition for establishing a manganese ore purchasing depot at Baker. The documents included an index map and reports on several manganese areas in eastern Oregon and western Idaho. Several property owners provided information on quantity and quality of available ore. Emphasis was placed on the fact that railroad freight rates were so high that local manganese ore could not be shipped to present markets.

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FOR SALE

Two silver amalgamated copper plates, each 48 inches by 54 inches, containing 1 ounce of silver per square foot. Anyone interested should get in touch with Mr. W. J. Seufert, The Dalles, Oregon.

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DAM SITE ON ROGUE RIVER, OREGON, FOUND UNSUITABLE

A long expensive dam will be required at the Mile 186.5 dam site on the Rogue River, Oregon, according to a report made to the District Engineer, Corps of Engineers, Portland, Oregon, by J. C. Miller, Regional Geologist, U.S. Geological Survey, Los Angeles, California.

A map reconnaissance by Department of the Interior engineers had previously indicated that this site might make a good reservoir location. The geological examination showed that the river had developed a broad floodplain over a period of many centuries and that a large quantity of volcanic ash has been deposited at the proposed dam site in more recent times.

The site in question is north of the Union Creek resort on the Rogue River in sec. 26, T. 30 S., R. 3 E., Jackson County. The report states that the rocks exposed at this locality are andesite presumably underlain by vesicular basalt judged by exposures at places nearby. Overlying these rocks is a thick blanket of pumice and volcanic ash which in places may be as much as 150 feet thick and would provide no anchorage for an abutment on the left bank. Therefore a dam or cutoff wall of excessive length would probably be needed to prevent leakage through these soft beds.

The report is in files open to public inspection at offices of the Geological Survey as follows: Portland, Oregon, Room 619, Post Office Building; Los Angeles, California, Room 527, Post Office and Court House; and Washington, D.C., Room 3218, General Services Building.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OUSTS MINERAL CLAIMANTS

It was announced in Portland by Roscoe E. Bell, Regional Administrator of the Bureau of Land Management, that 43 mining claims of 160 acres each, near Randle in the Mount St. Helens area, had been declared null and void. It was stated that a careful field examination disclosed that the claims which are in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest contained a small amount of pumice but insufficient in quantity and quality to be a valuable mineral under the mining laws. It was further stated that timber on the locations is of considerable value.

Adverse proceedings have also been started against 72 other placer claims in the same area covering 7,600 acres. Twenty-four of these claims were located wholly or partially in a power site withdrawal which superseded the location of the mining claims, automatically rendering them void.

It seems to this writer that publicity along the lines of the above should be commended because it points out a fact which has been emphasized by Oregon mining people many times - namely, that the Bureau of Land Management has ample power to adverse invalid mining claims and that if the mining laws are administered as the Bureau has power to administer them, the need for changing the laws to give the Bureau control over the surface of mining claims is without force. In recent years the Bureau and the Forest Service have released voluminous publicity emphasizing alleged weaknesses in the mining laws which allow mineral claimants to locate mining claims for nonmineral purposes. The releases indicated that the Bureau was helpless to prevent abuses unless the laws were revised to allow greater control of public lands by the Government. This publicity had the effect of revealing to people who want to get something for nothing how, under the mining laws, it is seemingly a simple matter to obtain land for any purpose, even for summer homes, filling stations, or, most important, timber.

It appeared that the releases were designed primarily as propaganda to obtain mining law revision and failed to present all the facts, especially that the Bureau could and would enforce the laws to prevent invalid location of mining claims.

Action such as promised by Mr. Bell will tend to discourage location of mining claims for nonmineral purposes and it is believed that in his administration of public land laws Mr. Bell will try to be entirely fair and impartial. His news releases will not be issued for propaganda purposes.

F.W.L.

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CHROMITE PRODUCTION NEWS
Grants Pass, Oregon

The mill at the Homa mine located about two miles southeast of the town of Rogue River is being converted for use in concentration of chromite ore by Roy A. Mills, Gold Hill, and W. H. Holloway, Medford, Oregon. The mill is under lease from the Tyrrell Manganese Company, Medford, and was constructed in 1947 for milling gold ore by G. S. Holmes, Los Angeles, California, and R. J. Howard, San Mateo, California. The mill was operated briefly in 1947. The property has been idle since that time.

According to Mills, after additions are made the mill will include a hammermill, conveyor, a Gibson ball mill rated at about 50 tons per day, and two concentrating tables. Initial operation will be on chromite ore from the Coyote Creek area in northern Josephine County.

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The mill of the Ashland Mining Company, about one mile west of Ashland, Oregon, is now being readied for use in concentrating both tungsten and chromite ores. The mill, which in the past has been used principally on gold ore, includes a jaw crusher, Harding ball mill rated at about 50 tons per day, and two concentrating tables. A jig and two additional concentrating tables will be installed to handle the chromite ore.

Tungsten ore (scheelite) for the mill will come from the Mattern deposit on the Southern Pacific Railroad right-of-way one mile northwest of Ashland. Mining at this property will begin in the near future.

The company will obtain concentrating grade chromite ore from properties on Chrome Ridge near Galice, Josephine County. Three claims, Shady Cove, Chrome Monument, and Rocky Point, have recently been leased by the company from H. Z. Bielenberg of Galice. Mining operations will be started there early next spring.

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Operations were begun November 24 at the Strategic Minerals Corporation chromite concentrating mill at Galice. According to W. D. Plumley, company president, the mill will be in limited operation for a short time pending installation of a second concentrating table. An estimated 1500 tons of concentrating grade chromite ore from the Sordy Mine near Briggs Creek, Josephine County, has been stockpiled at the millsite.

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The Bowers chromite concentrating mill at Galice is reported to have suspended operations to wait for installation of a hammermill.

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Operations are expected to be renewed early in 1952 at the Oregon Chrome mine on the Illinois River, Josephine County. The mine is owned by W. S. Robertson, Grants Pass, and has been Oregon's largest producer of chromite ore in the past.

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Chromite mining operations at the Black Diamond mine near Bolan Lake, Josephine County, near the California-Oregon line, have been stopped by snow. The mine operated by Marlin Williams, George Clark, Jack Speitzner, and John Speitzner, Grants Pass, produced about 75 tons of good grade lump ore and 75 tons of concentrating grade ore during the past summer. Ore has been developed at four places on the property.

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Jack Leonard and Joe Inman of Grants Pass have been mining at the Jim Bus, Black Beauty, and Midnight claims about 10 miles northwest of Selma, Josephine County. The claims are under lease from James Gallaher, Grants Pass. Mining operations were begun last January 2 and have continued throughout the year. Mining is done with a caterpillar tractor. Approximately 200 tons of good grade lump ore has been produced. About 80 tons has been mined at the Black Beauty and Midnight claims and the remainder at the Jim Bus claim.

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The Cyclone Gap mine located in northern Siskiyou County, California, produced 1060 short tons of very high-grade chromite ore in the initial two months of operation prior to

closure by snow early in November. Exploration work was begun at the mine early in July by a group headed by W. S. Robertson of Grants Pass. A 350-foot crosscut was driven intersecting a large body of chromite. The initial shipment of ore was made on August 28. Operations will be resumed as early in the spring as weather permits.

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The Shade and Hammer mines northwest of Selma are being developed by Roy Hillis, Wesley Pieren, and Earl Pieren. Both of these properties were producers during World War II.

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The Chetco Mining Company has completed several miles of road extending from the Josephine Creek area of Josephine County to chromite deposits in the Upper Chetco River area of Curry County. Heavy snow in that area has forced a shut-down of operations until spring. One truckload of ore was brought out before operations were stopped. Full-scale mining operations will begin early next spring and roads will be extended to other chromite properties in that area.

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Glenn Shippen, Canyonville, Oregon, is mining at the Rainy Day chromite mine near Days Creek in Douglas County. Two pods of chromite are now exposed.

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UNION OIL TEST CONTINUES

The Union Oil Company of California test well 20 miles northwest of Roseburg, Oregon, had reached a depth of about 6,650 feet on December 12 according to A. S. Fowks, who is supervising the drilling for the company. The well continues in shale and sandstone at that depth.

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CALIFORNIA RANCH DREDGED AND RESOILED BOTH PROFITABLY

Horse Creek, Siskiyou County.- Charles Rainey is a firm disbeliever in the old saw about having your cake and eating it, too.

Rainey did that with his land, which was dredged for gold between 1940 and 1942, but now produces some of the best grass crops in this area. Rainey says the Harms and Larsen dredging firm took about $900,000 from the 300 acres it worked, but finished up by leaving level farmland better than it had been before.

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In 1938, test holes were dug and promising gold returns were measured. Dredger representatives came around to tell Rainey about the assay, but he told them he was a farmer, not a miner. The gold could stay right where it was before he would permit one foot of his land to be converted to a rock pile.

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The dredger company thought about Rainey's stand for awhile and proposed terms which he accepted. . . .It would scrape off the topsoil, stockpile it, level off dredge tailings, resoil them, leave the old homestead untouched and pay royalties on gold recovered.

So today the biggest flat spot in the rugged Klamath River country near here is in the lush meadows of the Rainey Ranch.

The cattle now are all Angus instead of mixed breeds. They summer on high Siskiyou Mountains forest ranges and all the Raineys have to do to put them there is open a back gate.

(From California Mining Journal, October 1951.)

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