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CONTRAVENING THE MINING LAWS

The Sunset Magazine, Menlo Park, California, published in its July 1952 issue an article listing methods by which families could obtain vacation homes in the West at a very small cost. Among the methods was one described under the heading "Mining Claims" which stated that anyone who wished to become an "amateur miner" could pursue his "hobby" and secure a cabin site at the same time by location of a mining claim. The article explained that it is a relatively simple matter to obtain a site by locating a mining claim and maintaining title by doing annual assessment work. It stated further that full information on federal mining laws could be obtained from the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, Washington, D.C.

The article caused Mr. Marion Clawson, Director of the Bureau of Land Management, to circularize people in the Bureau's mailing list as follows:

"The relation between the mining laws and the non-mining uses of public land is a matter which has concerned us a great deal. Enclosed is a reprint of a book review which appeared in Sunset magazine for July 1952. Both the review and the book give prospective cabin builders specific advice on how to take advantage of the mining laws to obtain a cabin site. This is the most explicit published statement on this subject that I have seen. It puts into words what we have long felt was the general attitude of non-mining people toward the mining laws. I think you will be interested to read the brief section headed 'Mining Claims.'"

No evidence appears in Mr. Clawson's circular letter that the Bureau of Land Management offers any objection to the published statements in Sunset Magazine. There is even a suggestion of approval and congratulation that the matter was presented so explicitly. It seems to this writer that voicing of objections by the Bureau would have been quite in order since the location of mining claims for purposes other than mining is a violation of the mining laws to which those who administer the laws should definitely object.

The Editor of Sunset Magazine had undoubtedly considered that he was doing his readers a service by showing them an inexpensive means of obtaining land for a cabin site. In addition, he probably was not fully aware of the details of the mining laws and their administration. It therefore seemed to the writer that objections should be raised by those who want to prevent subversion of the mining laws and, especially, to preserve them for their original and stated purpose - that of discovering new mineral deposits and

promoting the mining industry, not recreation. Therefore the following letter was written to Sunset Magazine:

September 3, 1952

Editor
Sunset Magazine
Menlo Park, California

Dear Sir:

My attention has been called to the article titled "Ideas for Cabins and Beach Houses" which appeared in the July 1952 issue of Sunset Magazine. The part of the article under the heading "Mining Claims" contains information which I think is likely to be misunderstood by your readers unless they are well informed concerning both the spirit and the letter of the mining laws. In other words, the "Mining Claims" section may point the way to trouble for readers inexperienced in mining and this would, of course, be detrimental to your excellent periodical.

There has been a lot of publicity given out by the U. S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management showing the large number of mining locations which have been made on public domain for purposes other than mining. This publicity advertises that free land may be acquired even though the spirit of the mining laws is violated. Very little in the way of publicity has appeared which shows the other side of the picture - that is, it is the function and the duty of the Bureau of Land Management to contest and if necessary take legal steps to dispossess the owner of a mining claim which is located illegally. If an invalid location is made, the Bureau of Land Management can and should contest the validity of the location at any period from the time of "discovery" up to the time of patenting. There are many pitfalls in the way of perfecting a mining location for uses other than real mining, and in the opinion of this writer such a location may not only be invalid but is fraudulent as well. One of these pitfalls is adequacy of "discovery," which according to court decisions must be sufficient to "justify a prudent person in expending money and work in exploration of it."

If, through your advice, a reader should file a mining location following the directions you outline, even to the extent of getting information from the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, and construct a cabin on his claim, he might be evicted from the claim, leaving the cabin in the hands of the government.

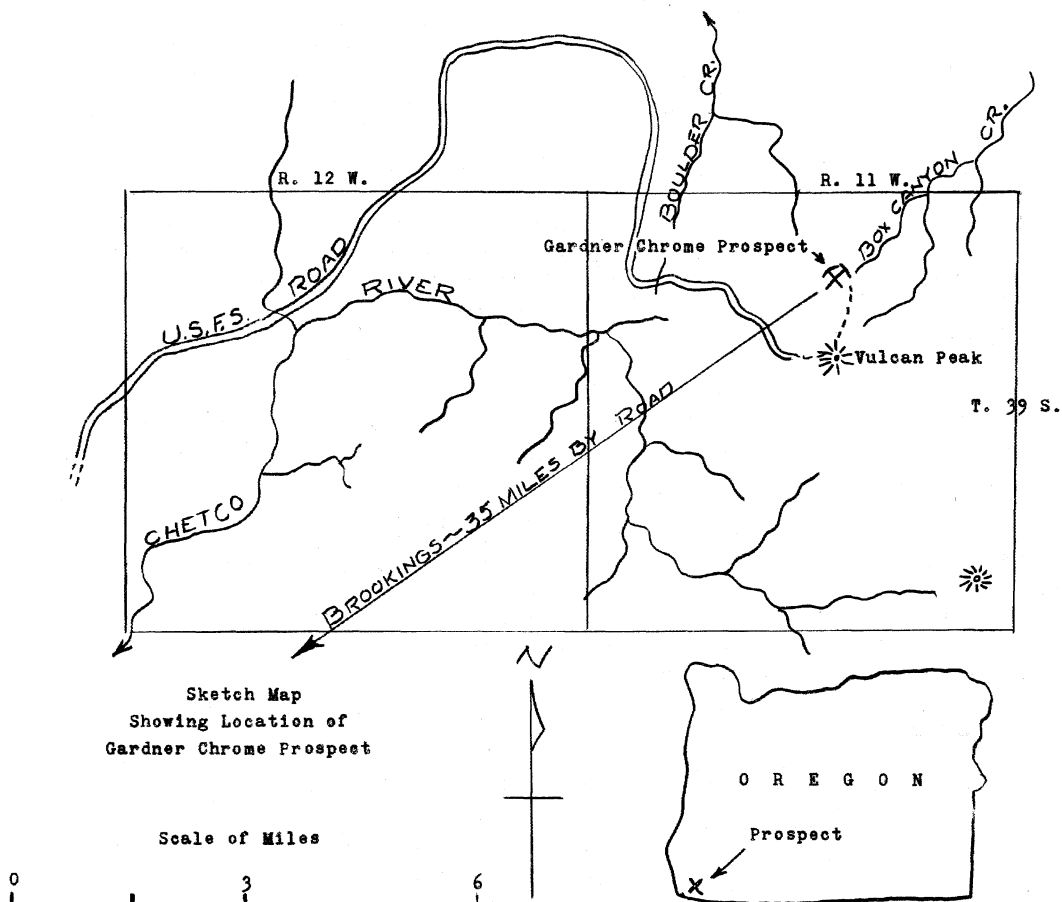
Some federal bureaus have been more concerned with getting the mining laws changed to give them complete control of the surface of public domain than in putting out complete statements regarding operation of the mining laws and the powers of the Bureau of Land Management to contest illegal mining locations, thus discouraging such locations. You may have misinterpreted some of this publicity. It seems to me that you owe it to your readers to caution them, even to the extent of advising them, not to locate a mining claim for the purpose of erecting a cabin or a beach house. Such a location violates the spirit, if not the letter, of the mining laws, and could result in your subscribers losing not only possession of their mining claims but all of their improvements as well.

Very truly yours,

/S/ F. W. Libbey
Director

GARDNER CHROME PROSPECT

Chromite was discovered a mile and a half north of Vulcan Peak in Curry County, Oregon, by Fred Gardner of Harbor, Oregon, on the Fourth of July, 1952. He located three claims. Chromite was found in place on one, the Fourth-of-July claim. The legal description of the property is sec. 3 and 10 (? unsurveyed area), T. 39 S., R. 11 W.



A Forest Service road to the saddle west of Vulcan Peak is 35 miles from Brookings. Mr. Gardner intends to have the road extended to the workings, a distance of about 2 miles.

The deposit consists of stringers of high-grade chromite in sheared and serpentinized saxonite and dunite. The ore is in close proximity to a system of siliceous dikes, apparently rhodinite. Stringers as much as 4 feet in width are exposed in place on the surface. Most of the stringers, however, are from a few inches to about 1 foot wide.

The development consists of several small elongate open cuts which expose the ore in place. Less than ten tons of ore have been mined; but a greater amount was seen in place and the deposit looks promising.

A composite sample, taken by Mr. Gardner over the exposures, ran 50.2 percent Cr_2O_3 with a 2.99 chrome-iron ratio.

L.R.

ACTIVITIES OF ASHLAND MINING COMPANY

Chromite is being mined from the Shady Cove prospect on Chrome Ridge (Sec. 11, T. 36 S., R. 9 W.) near Galice, Josephine County, Oregon, by the Ashland Mining Company. The ore is mined by open pit methods and is trucked to the Ashland Mining Company mill near Ashland, Jackson County, for concentration. Lenses of disseminated chromite in dunite about 50 inches in width and granular chromite and talc from 6 inches to 1 foot in width which is found in a fault gouge along the east wall of the disseminated ore are exposed in the main pit. The granular chromite from the fault zone assayed 45.31 percent Cr_2O_3 and 14.52 percent iron. A sample of disseminated chromite taken from the ore bin at the mill assayed 39.40 percent Cr_2O_3 and 12.83 percent iron. A sample of chromite concentrates ran 52.60 percent Cr_2O_3 and 14.28 percent iron.

This company has been mining some tungsten ore from the Mattern deposit on the Southern Pacific Railroad right-of-way 1 mile northwest of Ashland since February 1952. Scheelite was concentrated in the company mill and the concentrates were shipped to the U.S. Vanadium Company, Bishop, California, until chromite production was begun at the Shady Cove prospect last spring. Tungsten ore is being mined but is stockpiled and will be concentrated this winter when weather conditions prevent chrome mining operations.

WILLOWDALE QUARRY OPERATING

Pacific Cut Stone Company of Seattle is shipping rough quarry blocks from the Willowdale quarry in northern Jefferson County on US Highway 97 about 17 miles north of Madras. Approximately 25 tons of stone are produced daily and shipped to the company's Seattle plant where they are cut up into brick and veneer. Mr. A. P. Sagmiller is in charge of the quarry. The Willowdale stone is a reddish-brown rhyolite tuff which breaks into large blocks. The tuff forms a low bluff just east of the highway one and a half miles south of Willowdale. Some of the blocks have a dark banding which adds interest to the stone. The stone has a crushing strength of from 3,200 to 5,000 pounds per square inch and an apparent porosity ranging from 23 percent to 32 percent.

NEW AGSTONE PRODUCTION

Pacific Carbide & Alloys Company started the production of agricultural limestone in June 1952 at the company's north Portland plant. The limestone is obtained from the company-owned quarry near Enterprise in Wallowa County, Oregon. Only the material too small to be used in carbide furnaces is being prepared for agstone at the present time. This consists of minus half-inch material which is further reduced in a hammer mill to 90 percent through 8 mesh with 30 percent passing 100 mesh. The limestone averages better than 96 percent calcium carbonate and contains about $1\frac{1}{2}$ percent carbon. The presence of carbon makes the stone black which is in great contrast to most local limestones.

Production and distribution of the agstone is handled by the Greeley Lime Company, a subsidiary of Pacific Carbide & Alloys Company. The Greeley company has a delivery and spreading service direct from plant to field. At the present time there is a stockpile containing approximately 20,000 tons of undersized material at the Enterprise quarry. The Portland agstone plant will run on a 12-month basis, stockpiling the production during the period when spreading is not possible.

MERCURY STATISTICS FIRST HALF 1952

Production of domestic mercury in the period January to June 1952 amounted to 6,050 flasks according to a report by the U.S. Bureau of Mines. Imports during the same period totaled 29,796 flasks. Consumption amounted to 19,600 flasks. The countries which shipped the metal to the United States during the first half of 1952 were: Italy, 14,767 flasks; Spain, 5,212 flasks; Yugoslavia, 5,761 flasks; Mexico, 3,906 flasks; and French Morocco, 50 flasks. In 1951 the countries from which the largest amount of mercury was obtained were as follows: Italy, 17,633 flasks; Spain, 13,604 flasks; Yugoslavia, 6,523 flasks; and Mexico, 4,988 flasks. Total imports in 1951 including small quantities from other countries amounted to 44,925 flasks.

Nine mines accounted for 96 percent of the total domestic production. These were: the Abbott in Lake County, Juniper and New Idria in San Benito County, Culver-Baer, Dewey-Buckman, and Sonoma in Sonoma County, California; Hermes in Valley County, Idaho; Cordero in Humboldt County, Nevada; and Bonanza in Douglas County, Oregon.

GOLD PURCHASE REGULATIONS

The Treasury on August 28 issued, amended, and revised gold regulations for the purpose of modifying certain requirements for dealing in gold (Federal Register of August 29, page 7888). These changes incorporate certain administrative interpretations and rules, setting forth in great detail the existing law applicable to the acquisition, possession, holding and use of gold.

The Bureau of the Mint advises that the only change in the regulations affecting "gold in its natural state" is that persons who do not hold Treasury licenses may now acquire retort sponge gold from producers, -- "Provided that the aggregate amount of such retort sponge acquired and held . . . does not exceed at any one time 35 fine troy ounces of gold content." This is done to allow storekeepers and other purchasers in remote places to receive retort sponge from a small producer, without the necessity of holding a Treasury license. Such persons are authorized to dispose of such retort sponge only to the United States and to persons holding Treasury licenses.

The Treasury definition "Gold in its natural state" means gold recovered from natural sources which has not been melted, smelted, or refined or otherwise treated by heating or by a chemical or electrical process. (From American Mining Congress Bulletin Service, September 2, 1952.)

Editor's note: The revised regulations affecting "gold in its natural state" evidently liberalizes its definition, since retort sponge gold has been "otherwise treated by heating."

BUREAU METALLURGIST TAKES PRIVATE INDUSTRY JOB

Mr. H. A. Doerner, metallurgist with the U.S. Bureau of Mines for many years, has accepted a position as metallurgist with American Chrome Company, Mout, Montana.

CHROME DEPOT EXTENDS WORKING HOURS

The General Services Administration chrome ore depot at Grants Pass has extended the time for receiving ore shipments and now is open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. from Monday through Friday except legal holidays. The extended time for receiving ore will continue as long as deliveries of ore warrant it.

JAPANESE PROFESSOR VISITS

Professor Hisashi Kuno of the Geological Institute at Tokyo University, Japan, spent September 8 and 9 in the Portland area as a guest of the Department inspecting igneous outcrops. Professor Kuno has just completed a year's study at Princeton University on pyroxenites. He has done much work in Japan on volcanic rocks and is studying a large caldera there which resembles Crater Lake in many respects. While in Portland, Ralph Mason, Mining Engineer on the Department staff, showed Professor Kuno numerous exposures of basalt and andesite in the Columbia River Gorge, at Larch Mountain, the Parkdale lava beds, and on the slopes of Mount Hood. Professor Kuno was interested in the remarkable uniformity of the Columbia River basalts which he examined.

On his way to Oregon he sampled many other volcanic regions including the basalt flows of central and eastern Washington. After leaving Portland Professor Kuno visited Crater Lake to study the Caldera at first hand. One interesting sidelight developed after two large mule deer were observed on the Cooper Spur road on the north side of Mount Hood. In Japan it is illegal to hunt deer, Professor Kuno pointed out, but native nimrods get around this technicality by hunting for the same animal by another name, and this gentle subterfuge apparently works, for the deer population is steadily shrinking.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR SALE OF COLUMBIUM-TANTALUM

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"The program is to terminate on December 31, 1956, or when the Government has purchased 15-million pounds of contained pentoxide.

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"Specifications and price

"The Government shall pay the following price for columbium-tantalum bearing ores and concentrates meeting the following specifications, determined on a dry weight basis:

"(a) For columbium ores and concentrates containing not less than 35 percent combined Cb_2O_5 and Ta_2O_5 and having a Cb_2O_5 and Ta_2O_5 ratio of not less than one to one; impurities not to exceed the following maximum limits:

	Percent
TiO_2	8
SnO_2	8
FeO	25
MnO	13

\$1.40 per pound of combined contained pentoxide, plus 2 cents per pound for each additional full percent of combined contained pentoxide above 35 percent.

"(b) For tantalum ores and concentrates containing not less than 25 percent Ta_2O_5 and less than 20 percent Cb_2O_5 , and containing not in excess of the following maximum impurities:

	Percent
TiO_2	4
SnO_2	4

\$3 per pound of contained Ta_2O_5 in ores and concentrates containing 30-40 percent Ta_2O_5 , plus 3 cents per pound for each additional full percent of contained Ta_2O_5 above 40 percent, plus an additional 4 cents per pound for each full percent of contained Ta_2O_5 above 50 percent."

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There are penalties for tantalum ores and for columbium-tantalum ores containing below certain percentages of the pentoxides and also containing percentages of TiO_2 and SnO_2 above 4 percent each. Bonuses are paid including a 100-percent incentive bonus for lots which meet specifications. Lots must be 2,000 pounds or more. Detailed information may be obtained from the Defense Materials Procurement Agency, Washington, D.C. Government purchasing agents under the program are the Fansteel Metallurgical Corporation, North Chicago, Illinois; the Wah Chang Corporation, New York, New York; and the Emergency Procurement Service of the General Services Administration, Washington, D.C. (Partially abstracted from E&MJ Metal and Mineral Magazine, September 11, 1952.)